FULL 68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES

Sinister TALES

APPROVED COMIC

No 49

1/-

"the FISHERMEN of JUPITER"

the FISHERMAN of JUPITER

WAS THIS THE END FOR MATHISON AND HIS CREW...A WATERY DEATH BENEATH THE FOG-SHROUDED SEAS OF JUPITER? BEHIND THEM, THEIR SPACE-SHIP WAS USELESS...THIS WAS NOT THEIR ELEMENT AND MATHISON WAS UNABLE TO USE HIS WEAPONS AS THE STRANGE BEINGS OF JUPITER SLID SILENTLY IN FOR THE KILL!

SINISTER TALES No. 49
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CAPTAIN MATHISON KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MISSION...JUPITER A NEAR NEIGHBOR, HAD TO BE PERSUADED TO JOIN THE EARTH ALLIANCE...OR PERHAPS FALL VICTIM TO AN AGGRESSOR FROM A DISTANT GALAXY!

CAPTAIN MATHISON, THE FIRST COUNCIL SAID WE'D ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH JUPITER! HOW DID THEY COMMUNICATE?

VVRROOMM!

YOU KNOW HOW IT'S BEEN WITH OTHER WORLDS, LIEUTENANT! WE SPEAK IN OUR TONGUE AND A SORT OF TELEPATHY TAKES PLACE! IT'S AS THOUGH WE KNEW THEIR LANGUAGE AND THEY KNEW OURS...IT NEVER HAPPENS THAT WAY ON EARTH BETWEEN DIFFERENT PEOPLES, WORSE LUCK!

THEY FOUND JUPITER... MATHISON HAD BEEN TO ALPHA ZETA AND BACK AND NAVIGATING TO A PLANET IN HIS OWN SOLAR SYSTEM WAS NO PROBLEM!

DENSE CLOUD COVER AND LOW-LYING LAYERS OF FOG, CAPTAIN! RADIO SAYS HE'S GOT A SIGNAL ON THE SHORT-RANGE RECEIVER!

THIS IS CAPTAIN MATHISON OF EARTH DELEGATION TO JUPITER! MAY WE LAND? WE COME IN PEACE AS YOU KNOW!

WE WELCOME YOU AND YOUR FELLOWS TO JUPITER, CAPTAIN MATHISON! IF YOU'LL OBEY OUR INSTRUCTIONS, WE WILL BRING YOU IN...

WE CAN'T SEE THE SURFACE YET! ARE THERE CITIES WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT OR...

YOU WON'T DESTROY OUR BUILDINGS, CAPTAIN MATHISON! JUST KEEP DESCENDING AT YOUR PRESENT RATE!

AT THE LAST SECOND, MATHISON TRIED TO REVERSE THE ENGINES... AS THEY PLUNGED THROUGH THE THICK SURFACE FOG AND SAW THE WATER...

REVERSE ENGINES QUICKLY OR...
IT'S ALREADY HAPPENED, CAPTAIN! ROCKET ENGINES STOPPED...WE'RE POWERLESS!

WE'LL GO OUT AND HAVE A LOOK AT THEM! LIEUTENANT, MUSTER YOUR TECHNICIANS... IF WE DON'T GET THE ROCKET-JETS DRIED OUT AND WORKING, WE'LL NEVER GET OFF JUPITER!

THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THE FIRST OMINOUS SHADOW STREAKED PAST IN THE TRANSLUCENT WATER...
CAPTAIN MATHISON... LOOK!

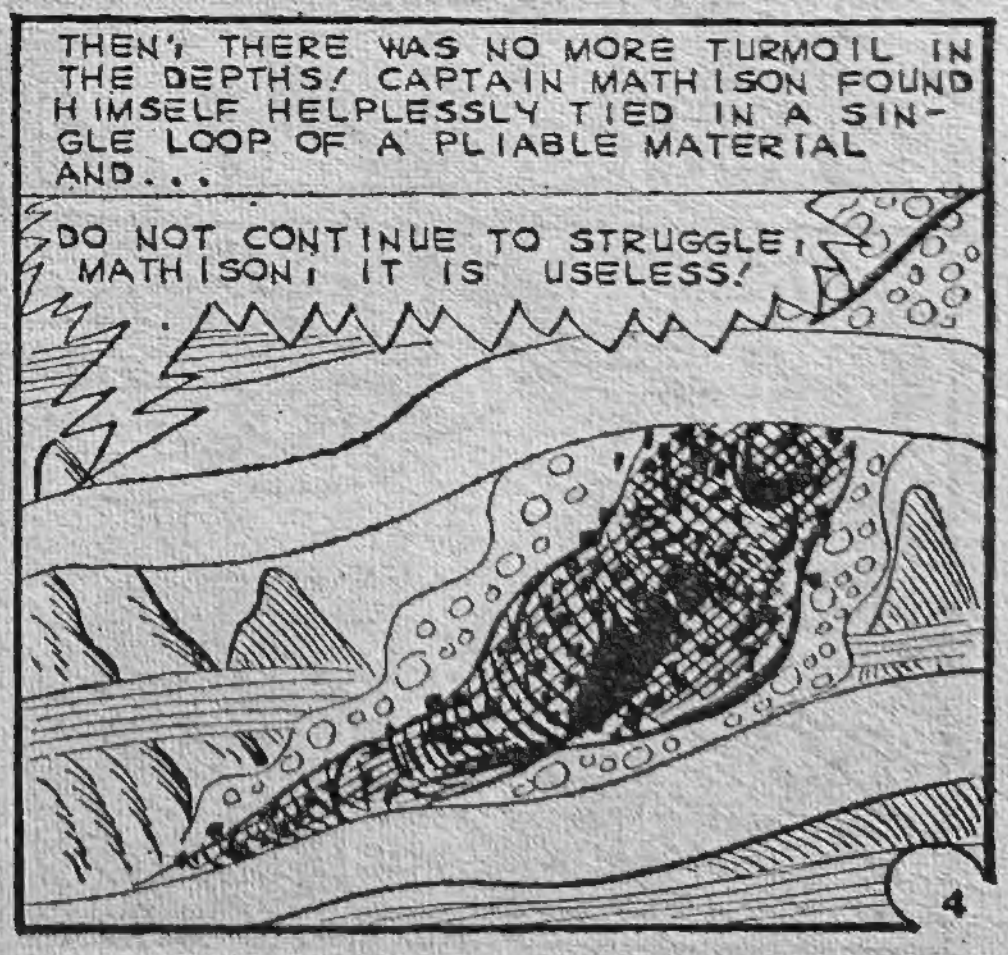
THUD

FIGHT 'EM OFF ANY WAY YOU CAN!

TWO OF THEM CAME AT MATHISON! HE SAW THE OMINOUS LOOKING MOUTH BUT AFTER EVADING ONE PASS HE SAW THEY WEREN'T ATTEMPTING TO BITE!

THEY'RE POWERFUL...DON'T LET THEM GET NEAR ENOUGH TO GRAB HOLD! JAKE, GIVE ME A HAND!

WATCH IT, JAKE! RIGHT ABOVE YOU!


THEN, THERE WAS NO MORE TURMOIL IN THE DEPTHS! CAPTAIN MATHISON FOUND HIMSELF HELPLESSLY TIED IN A SINGLE LOOP OF A PLIABLE MATERIAL AND...
DO NOT CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE, MATHISON, IT IS USELESS!

DON'T RESIST NOW, MEN! WHATEVER THESE CREATURES ARE,.. THEY'RE DISCIPLINED AND INTELLIGENT AND WE WON'T BE HARMED FOR A WHILE!

YOU MAY REMOVE YOUR HELMETS! THE ATMOSPHERE DOWN HERE IS SIMILAR TO EARTH'S, HAVING ONLY A SLIGHTLY HIGHER OXYGEN CONTENT! SHALLOWER BREATHING WILL HELP ACCLIMATIZE YOU IN THE BEGINNING...

WE ARE YOUR PRISONERS, SIR! PLEASE TELL US WHAT TO DO!
DO NOT WAIT FOR US! PROCEED STRAIGHT DOWN THE CORRIDOR UNTIL YOU COME TO A CIRCULAR CHAMBER... IK AWAITS YOU THERE! IT IS HIS VOICE YOU HAVE HEARD!

IK WAS WAITING...A MAN, AFTER ALL, MUCH LIKE THEMSELVES!
WE OF JUPITER ARE HONORED BY YOUR VISIT! PRAY BE SEATED AND JOIN ME IN A LIGHT REFRESHMENT! WE CAN TALK THEN...

THIS IS LIKE A JELLY BUT IT'S TART AND TASTY! WHAT IS IT, SIR?
A KIND OF DOMESTICATED PLANKTON! THE SEA AROUND US GIVES US FOOD AND EVERYTHING WE NEED TO SUBSIST!

THE MATERIAL OF WHICH MY DAUGHTER'S COSTUME IS MADE CAME FROM THE SEA TOO!
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS, SIR!

WE HAVE BUILT OUR GREAT CITIES BENEATH THE FLOOR OF THE OCEAN WHICH COVERS THE CONTINENTS AND ISLANDS FORMERLY PROTRUDING ABOVE THE SURFACE! MY DAUGHTER, YYA, WILL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING NOW...I AM OLD AND I MUST REST!

THE VAST CAVERN HELD A TREMENDOUS CITY...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAND ON THE SURFACE? HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE THE PEOPLE OF JUPITER BEEN UNDER-GROUND?

IN OUR HISTORY BOOKS IT IS RECORDED THAT ONCE WE LIVED CRUDELY ON THE SURFACE LIKE ANIMALS DO ON YOUR PLANET! OUR TECHNOLOGY WAS ADVANCED AND WE HAD WEAPONS WHEN THE INVADERS CAME FROM OUTER SPACE!

OUR SCIENTISTS USED NUCLEAR POWER TO CARVE THESE CAVERNS OUT OF THE PLANET... OUR MEN SLAVED HERE FOR CENTURIES BUILDING ALL OF THIS!
YOUR MEN? I SEE NO MEN... YOU ARE A FEMALE AND LIKE THE WOMAN OF EARTH BUT YOUR FATHER WAS THE ONLY MALE!

THE MEN HAVE DIED IN WARS...OR ARE FORCED TO WORK IN THE OCEANS ABOVE...AND BECOME ACCLIMATIZED TO LIFE IN AN AQUEOUS WORLD! YOU ARE THE FIRST MAN I HAVE EVER SPOKEN WITH! AM I PRETTY?
YES, BUT.. HEY, LEGGO MY ARM!

HEY, CAPTAIN, THIS DAME JUST PROPOSED TO ME! SHE'S NICE, HUH?
WE ARE HERE FOR A PURPOSE, SMITH! TO ESTABLISH A LASTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JUPITER AND EARTH!

THE GIRL TURNED HER LOVELY EYES TOWARD MATHISON...THERE WAS SHYNESS IN THEM AND SHAME BUT SHE SPOKE WITH PURPOSE!
CAPTAIN MATHISON, WARRIOR OF EARTH, IF YOUR DUTY TOOK YOU INTO GREAT DANGER AND YOU HAD TO GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR PLANET, WOULD YOU BALK AT THE SACRIFICE?
NO, BUT...

YOU MEN ARE SINGLE, THAT IS UNATTACHED TO WOMEN ON EARTH...YOU WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THIS, WERE YOU NOT?
YES, BUT OUR ORDERS...

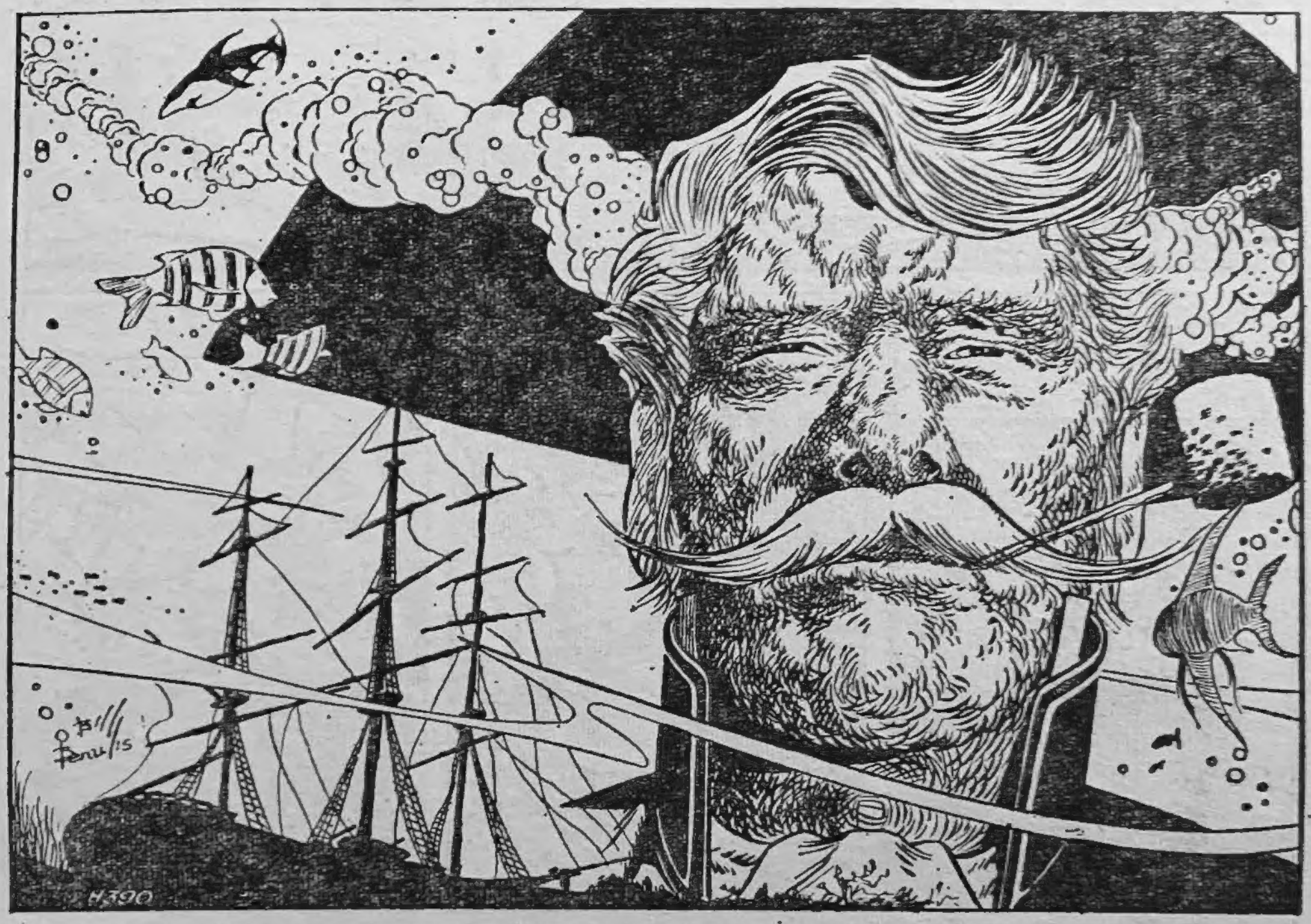
I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE FIRST COUNCIL OF EARTH AND DISCUSSED THIS WITH HIM! IT IS HIS WISH IF IT BE AGREEABLE WITH YOU THAT YOU BECOME COLONISTS...
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE...

CAPTAIN..? YOU HAVE A CUSTOM IN COURTSHIP... CALLED KISSING?
IT...IT WON'T WORK, IT JUST WON'T WORK!

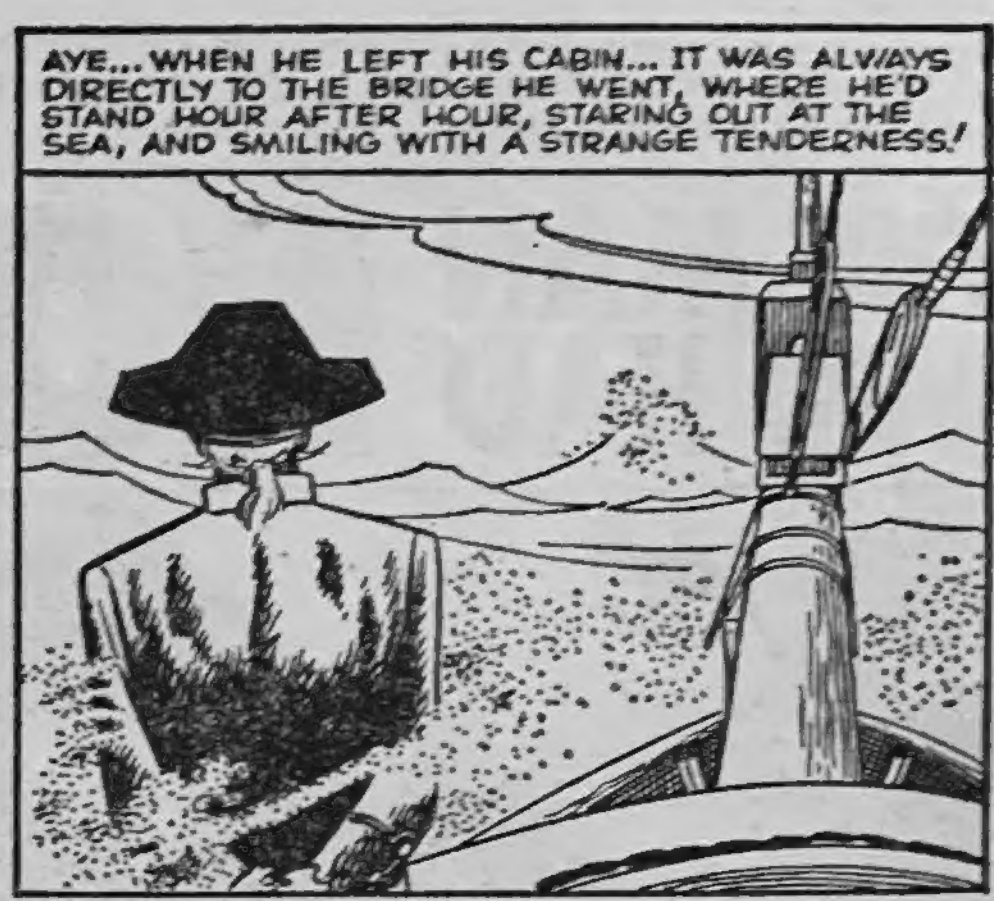
THIS IS WHY TODAY, JUPITER IS OUR STAUNCHEST ALLY...IN FACT, CAPTAIN MATHISON HAS JUST BEEN NAMED FATHER-OF-THE-YEAR ON JUPITER AND COMMANDS JUPITER'S SPACE FORCE!
EAT YOUR PLANKTON, DEAR!
IT TASTES TOO BLASTED MUCH LIKE SPINISH!
END

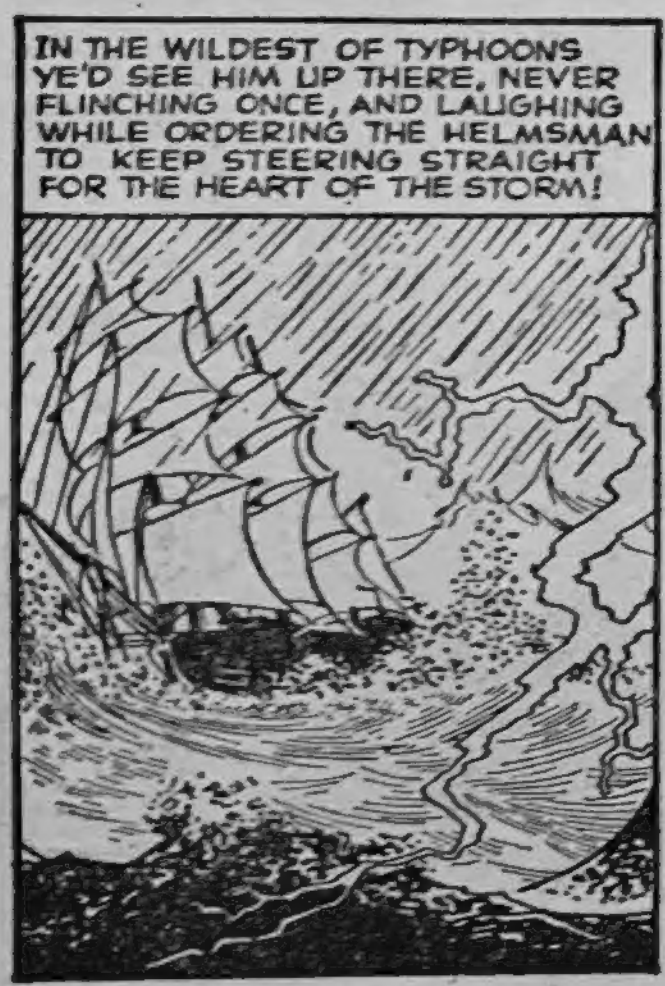
HAVE YE EVER HEARD THE WIND SCREECHING LIKE A THOUSAND WAILING BANSHEES! AND SEEN THAT WIND CHURNING THE OCEAN WATERS INTO WAVES SO HIGH, THEY BLOTTED OUT THE VERY SKY? AYE, MATES, I'VE SHIVERED THRU MANY A STORM AT SEA... BUT I'VE SEEN ONLY ONE MAN WHO COULD FACE THEM WITHOUT FLINCHING!

THE MAN WHO HAD NO FEAR



WHY DOESN'T HE EVER TALK TO US? NO ONE ABOARD KNOWS IF HE HAS HOME OR FAMILY!
WE'RE JUST HERE TO DO HIS BIDDING! IT'S THE *SEA* ALONE THAT'S HIS FRIEND!


AYE... WHEN HE LEFT HIS CABIN... IT WAS ALWAYS DIRECTLY TO THE BRIDGE HE WENT, WHERE HE'D STAND HOUR AFTER HOUR, STARING OUT AT THE SEA, AND SMILING WITH A STRANGE TENDERNESS!


IN THE WILDEST OF TYPHOONS YE'D SEE HIM UP THERE, NEVER FLINCHING ONCE, AND LAUGHING WHILE ORDERING THE HELMSMAN TO KEEP STEERING STRAIGHT FOR THE HEART OF THE STORM!

AND ALWAYS WHEN THE WAVES WERE AT THEIR HIGHEST AND WE WERE SURE WE'D CAPSIZE...
LOOK!

RIGHT IN THE HEART OF THE TYPHOON... A PATH OF CALM WATER!

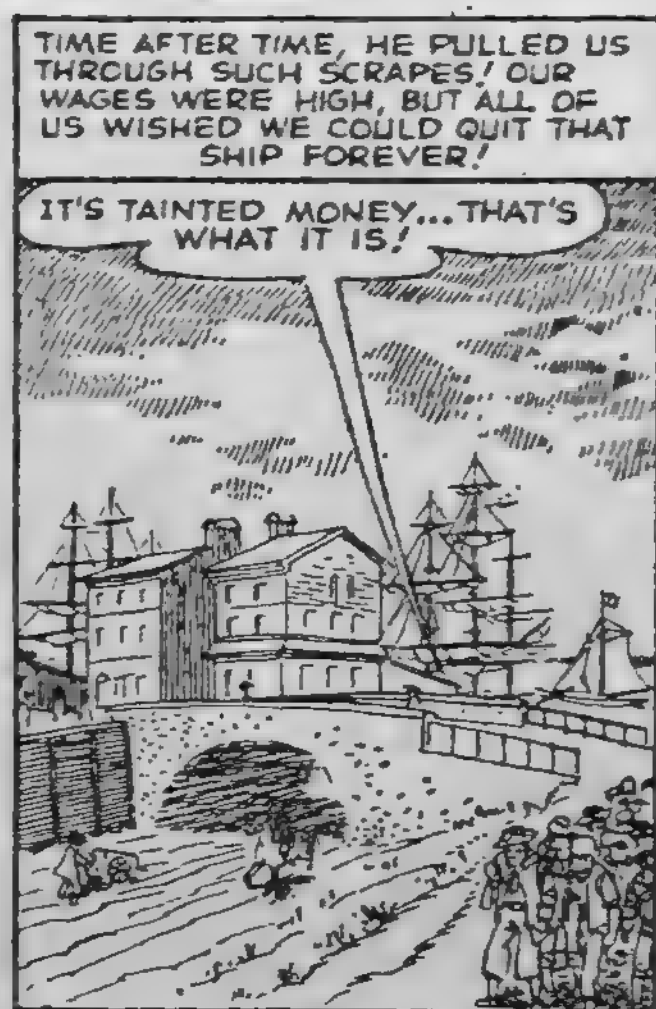
IT'S BLACK MAGIC... NOTHING ELSE!
WE SHOULD BE USED TO IT BY NOW! IT'S HAPPENED SO MANY TIMES BEFORE!

AND IT WAS NOT ONLY THROUGH STORMS THAT HE BROUGHT US UNSCATHED...
FOG'S LIFTING! SHOALS DEAD AHEAD!

COULD DAVY JONES'S LOCKER HAVE BEEN CLOSER? SHOALS SIGHTED TOO LATE... AND OUR SHIP STILL MOVING FORWARD DESPITE THE HELMSMAN'S HARD PULL AT THE WHEEL!

BUT WAS CAPTAIN WATERS AFRAID? NOT HIM! HE JUST STOOD UP THERE ON THE BRIDGE AS ALWAYS...

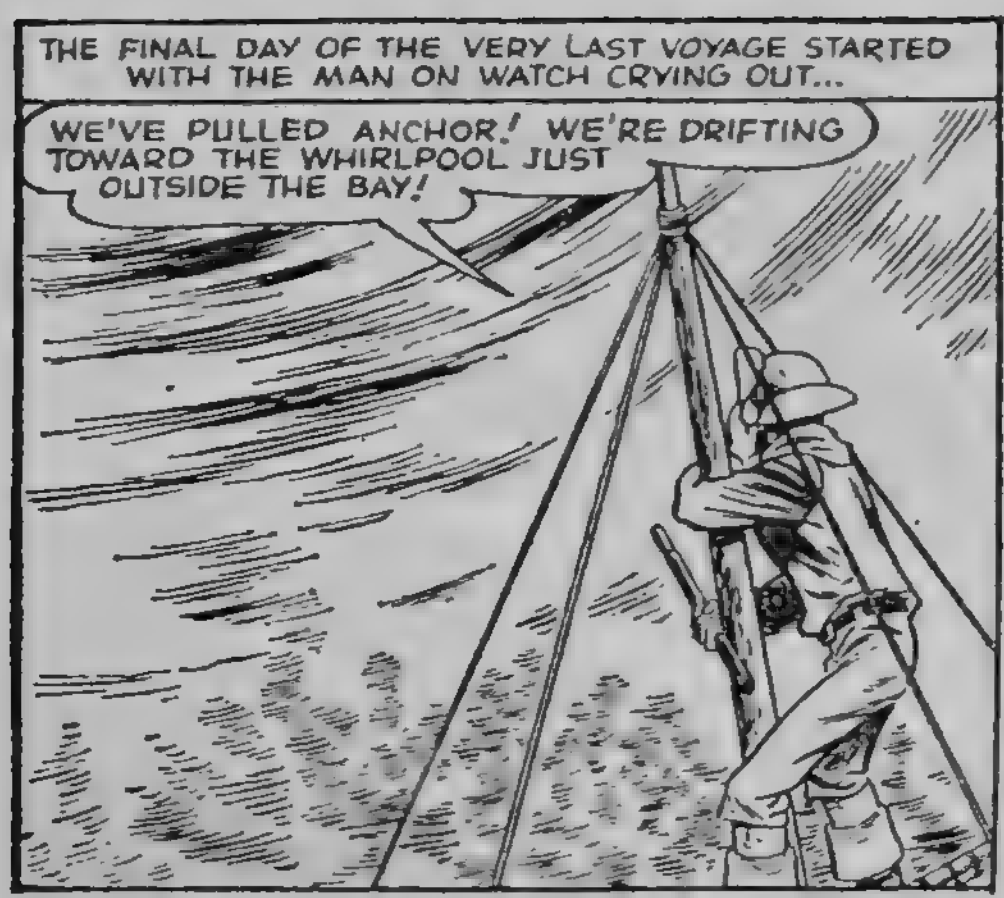
AND THE NEXT THING WE KNEW...
SOMETHING'S PULLING THE SHOALS DOWN!
WE'RE CLEARING THEM!

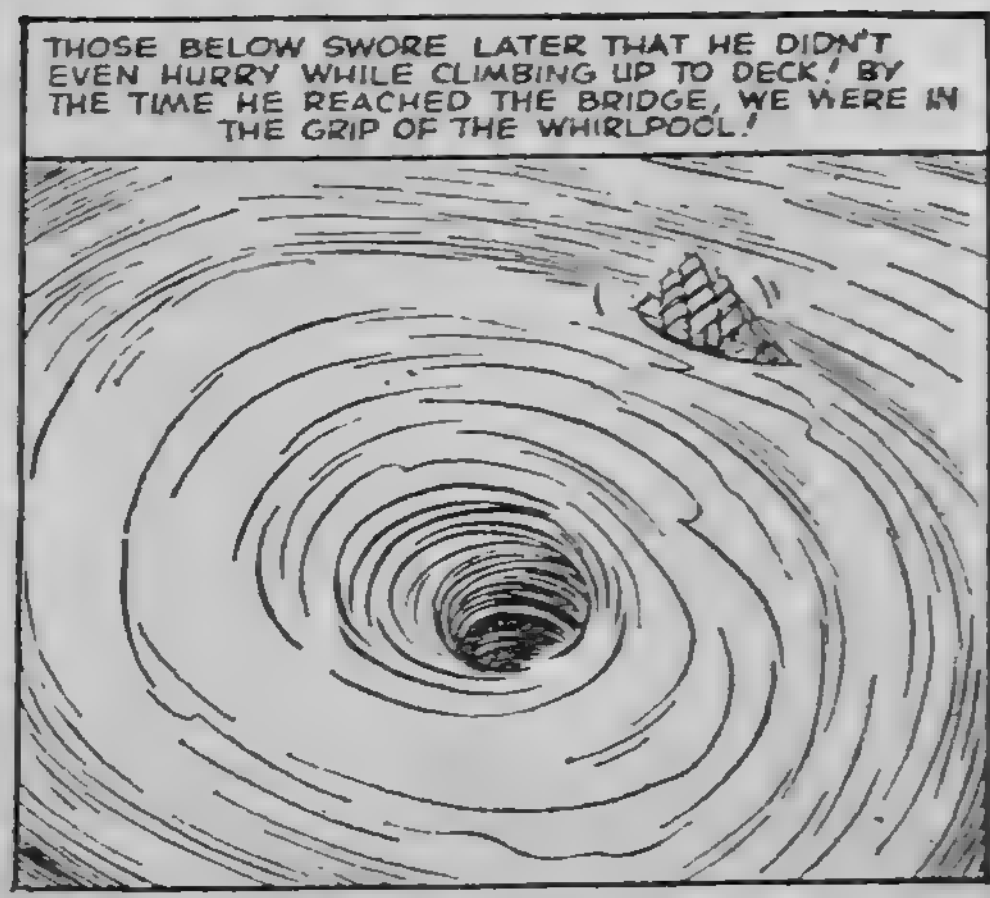

TIME AFTER TIME, HE PULLED US THROUGH SUCH SCRAPES! OUR WAGES WERE HIGH, BUT ALL OF US WISHED WE COULD QUIT THAT SHIP FOREVER!
IT'S TAINTED MONEY...THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

BUT WHENEVER WE'D TRY TO GET NEW BERTHS...
YE'RE CAPTAIN WATERS' MEN! I'LL HAVE NOBODY SAILING UNDER ME WHO'S ALIVE ONLY BECAUSE OF MAGIC!

SO IT WAS STAY WITH HIM OR QUIT THE SEA! AND SINCE SAILORS LOVE THEIR CALLING, WE STAYED ON...
KNOW WHAT I'VE HEARD? HE TAKES HIS PAY FROM THE OWNER IN GOODS INSTEAD OF COINS! AND IN THE NIGHT, HE THROWS THE GOODS OVERBOARD!

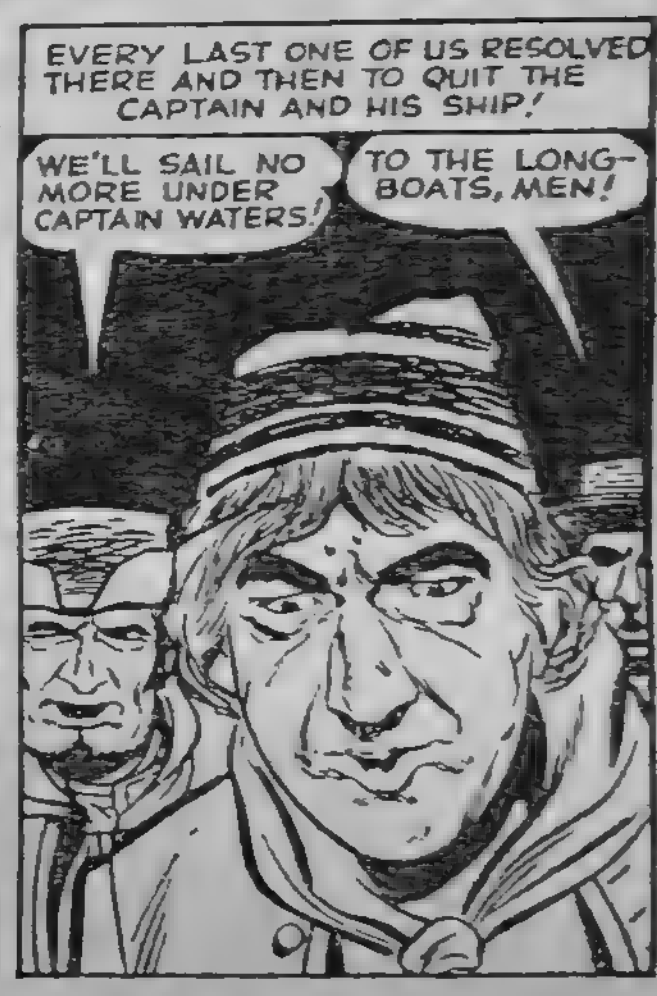
I'VE HEARD IT TOO! IT'S AS IF HE WERE PAYING THE SEA BACK FOR HOW KINDLY IT TREATS HIM!


THE FINAL DAY OF THE VERY LAST VOYAGE STARTED WITH THE MAN ON WATCH CRYING OUT...
WE'VE PULLED ANCHOR! WE'RE DRIFTING TOWARD THE WHIRLPOOL JUST OUTSIDE THE BAY!


THOSE BELOW SWORE LATER THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN HURRY WHILE CLIMBING UP TO DECK! BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE BRIDGE, WE WERE IN THE GRIP OF THE WHIRLPOOL!

AND THEN ALL HE DID WAS STARE FEARLESSLY DOWN AT THE CHURNING WATERS! BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH!

THE WHIRL-POOL'S STOPPED!
IT'S BEEN GOING ROUND AND ROUND FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, BUT ONE LOOK FROM HIM... AND IT STOPPED!

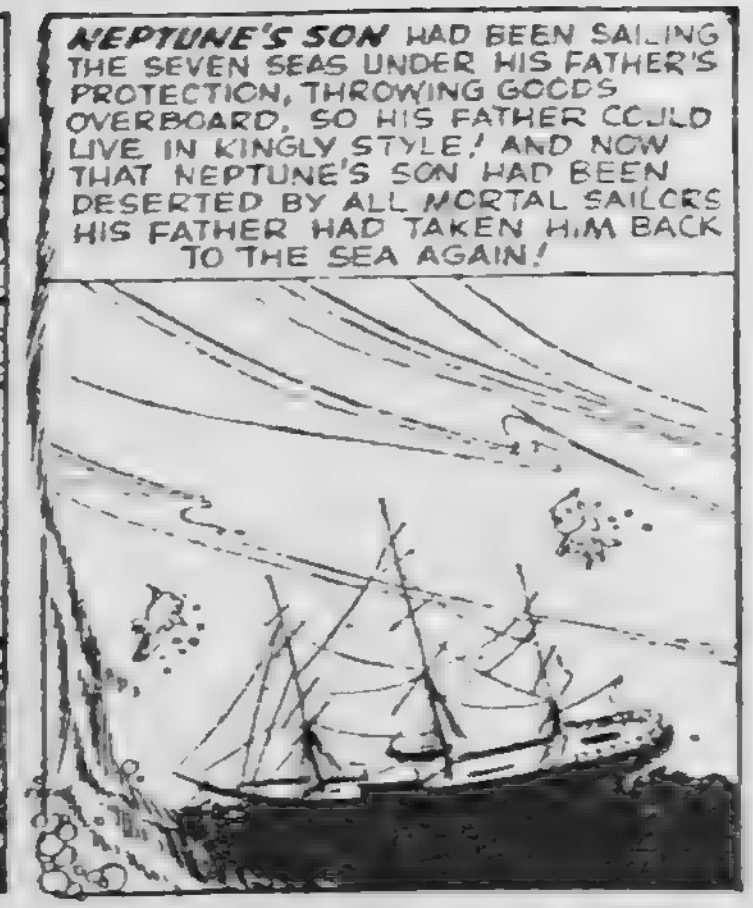

EVERY LAST ONE OF US RESOLVED THERE AND THEN TO QUIT THE CAPTAIN AND HIS SHIP!
WE'LL SAIL NO MORE UNDER CAPTAIN WATERS!
TO THE LONG-BOATS, MEN!

YE'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CREW! YE'RE THROUGH WITH THE SEA, FOREVER!

BUT HE JUST KEPT SMILING DOWN AND ALL THAT TIME SOMETHING WAS RISING UP FROM THE SEA BEHIND US...
LOOK!

OUR LONG BOAT CAPSIZED, BUT SO DID HIS SHIP...AND WE SAW HIM GO DOWN!
HO
HO
HO
HO
5

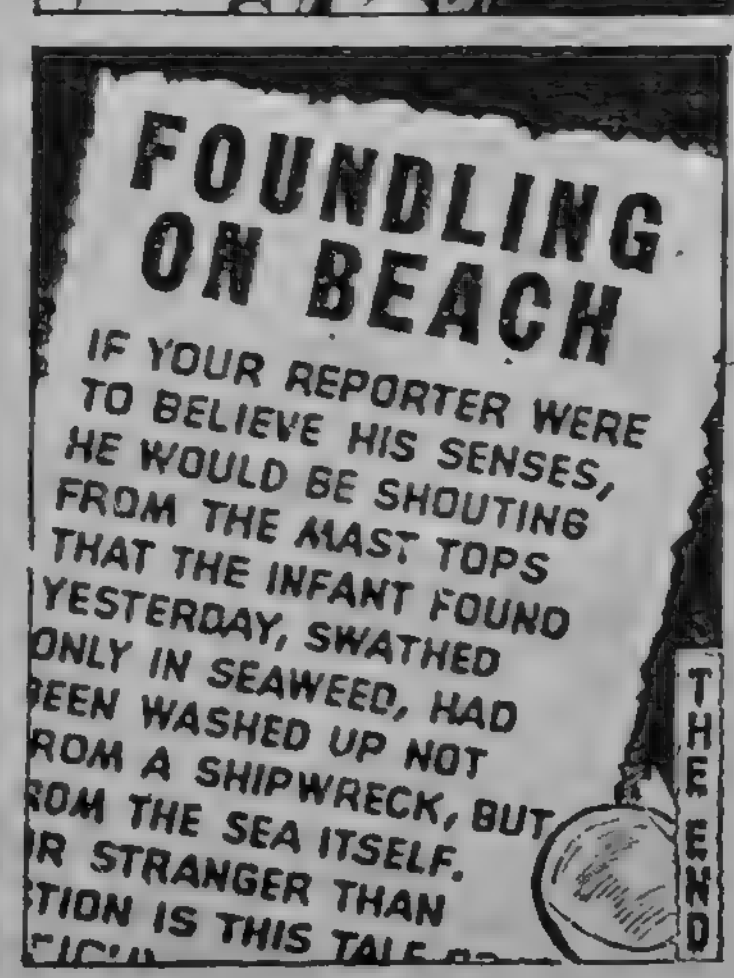
NOT ONE OF US DROWNED BUT CAPTAIN DAVID WATERS WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN...


NEPTUNE'S SON HAD BEEN SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS UNDER HIS FATHER'S PROTECTION, THROWING GOODS OVERBOARD, SO HIS FATHER COULD LIVE IN KINGLY STYLE! AND NOW THAT NEPTUNE'S SON HAD BEEN DESERTED BY ALL MORTAL SAILORS HIS FATHER HAD TAKEN HIM BACK TO THE SEA AGAIN!

MANY A LONG YEAR WAS SPENT. TRYING TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MAN WHO HAD NO FEAR...

NOT A SINGLE FRIEND OR RELATIVE OF THE CAPTAIN'S COULD BE FOUND NOR A BIRTH RECORD EITHER!

ONLY THIS! THIS OLD CLIPPING FROM A SEACOAST NEWSPAPER IN THAT PART OF LAND WHERE DAVID WATERS HAD FIRST BEEN SEEN!


FOUNDLING ON BEACH
IF YOUR REPORTER WERE TO BELIEVE HIS SENSES, HE WOULD BE SHOUTING FROM THE MAST TOPS THAT THE INFANT FOUND YESTERDAY, SWATHED ONLY IN SEAWEED, HAD EEN WASHED UP NOT ROM A SHIPWRECK, BUT OM THE SEA ITSELF. R STRANGER THAN TION IS THIS TALE
THE END

MORSE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS DAUGHTER! AFTER ALL, IT WAS A FANTASTIC STORY! HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY HAVE DANCED WITH...

THE STONE FIGURE?

JULIE, HONEY, IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND! YOU *HAVEN'T* REALLY BEEN DANCING WITH THAT STATUE OUT THERE NOW HAVE YOU?

BUT I *HAVE*, DADDY! EVERY NIGHT HE COMES TO LIFE AND WE DANCE TOGETHER!

NONSENSE...THAT'S ALL IT WAS! AND YET, ALL THROUGH THE NEXT DAY, MORSE'S UNEASINESS PERSISTED, UNTIL EVENING...

IT'S RIDICULOUS! I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE WATCHING! BUT JULIE HAS BEEN LEAVING THE HOUSE AT NIGHT!

AND THERE SHE IS AGAIN... GOING TO THE STATUE!

MORSE RAN THROUGH THE SHRUBBERY THAT BLURRED HIS VIEW, SO THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE SWORN, AFTERWARD, WHAT HE REALLY SAW...

THERE IS SOMEONE WITH HER! THERE IS SOMEONE WITH HER DANCING! I MUST BE IMAGINING IT! I MUST BE!

JULIE! YOU'RE ALONE! I DID IMAGINE IT! THERE'S NO ONE HERE!

BUT THERE WAS! OH, DADDY, YOU'VE SPOILED IT! THE LION IS JUST A STATUE AGAIN!

IT'S JUST LIKE HE TOLD ME! GROWNUPS DON'T BELIEVE! AND THAT SPOILS EVERYTHING! HE CAN ONLY MOVE IF YOU BELIEVE THAT HE CAN!

JULIE! STOP IT! THERE'S NO ONE HERE AND NO ONE HAS BEEN HERE!

BUT THERE WAS! IT'S LIKE HE SAYS... LOTS OF THINGS ARE POSSIBLE IF PEOPLE WOULD ONLY BELIEVE! BUT YOU DON'T!

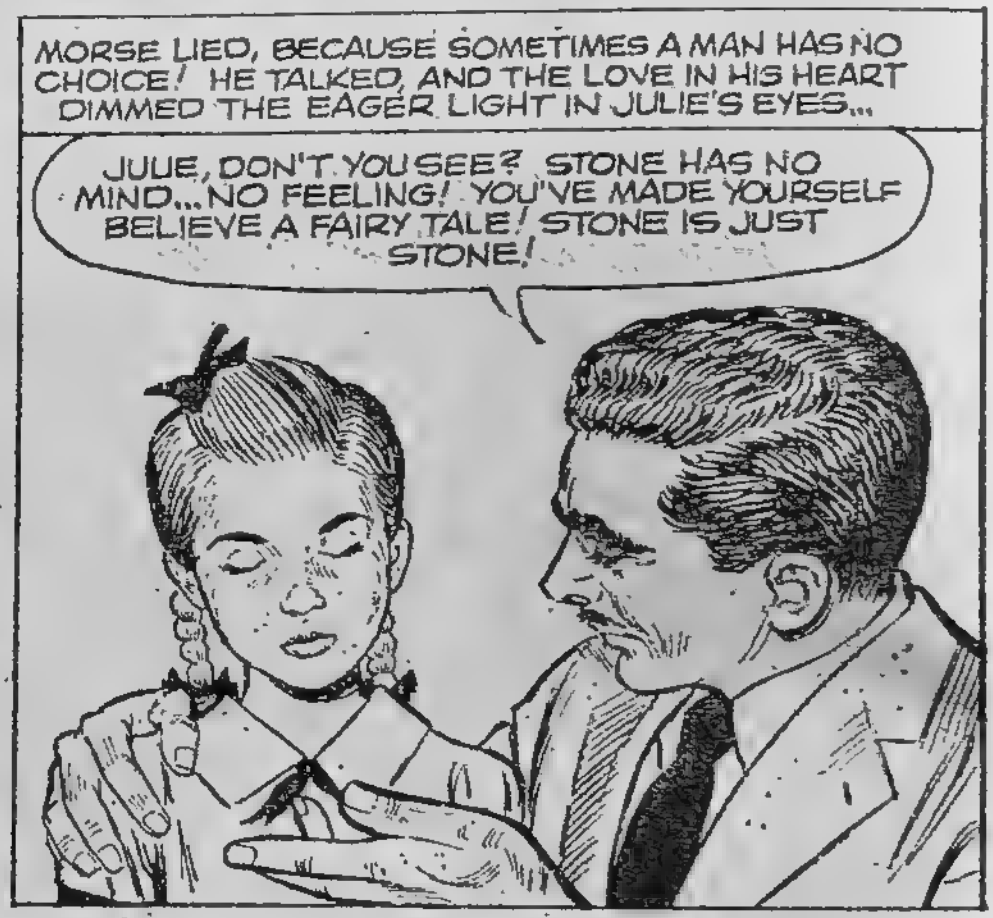
NO, I DON'T! AND THIS HAS GONE JUST ABOUT FAR ENOUGH! YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR ROOM AND I'M CALLING DR. STEVENS!

ONLY THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE PROPER MEDICINE DOES NOT COME IN BOTTLES...

THAT'S ALL I CAN SUGGEST, MISTER MORSE! THE CHILD IS HIGHLY IMAGINATIVE... WATCH HER NEXT TIME SHE GOES TO THE STATUE...

I'M TO FOLLOW HER AND PROVE THAT THE STATUE IS JUST THAT... A STATUE? I THINK I UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR! I'LL TRY!

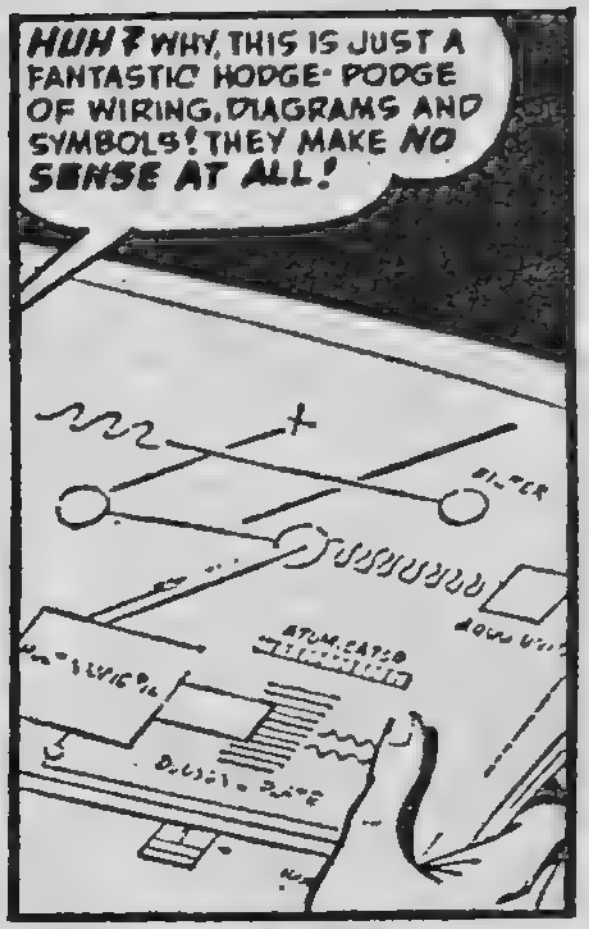
AFTERWARD, MORSE WAITED! AND AT LAST THE MOMENT CAME!



ADVENTURE into the FUTURE

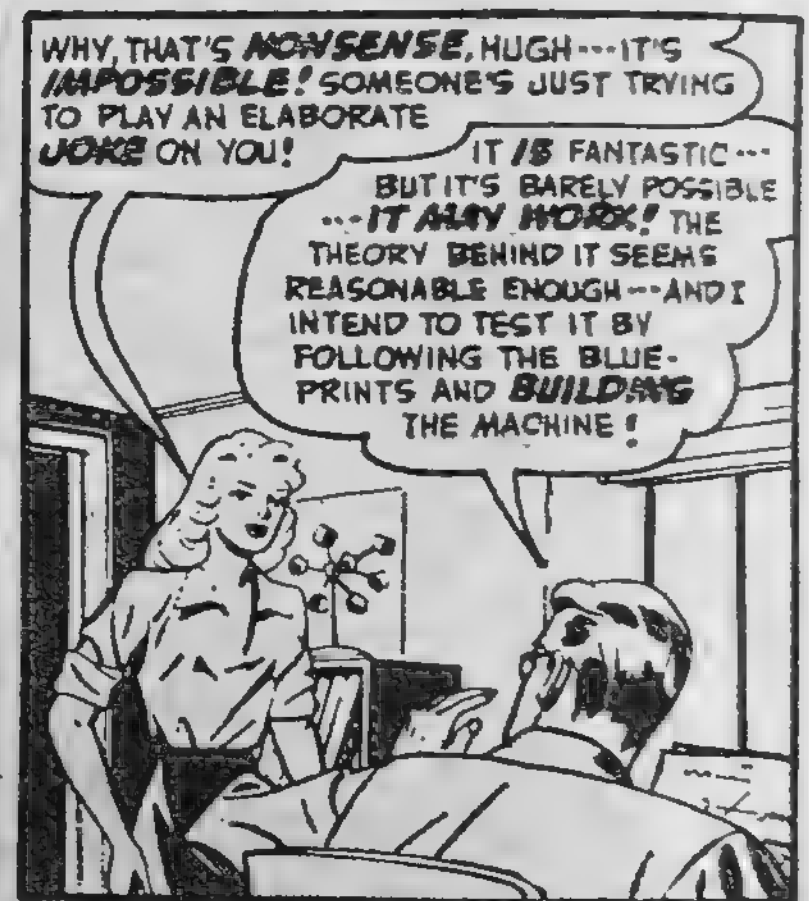
THE FUTURE! WHAT STRANGE WORLDS... AND EVEN STRANGER CREATURES... ARE DESTINED FOR EXISTENCE IN CENTURIES AND EONS TO COME? DON'T YOU WISH YOU COULD PIERCE THE IRON CURTAIN OF TIME SEPARATING THE PRESENT FROM THE FUTURE, AND CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE FABULOUS SIGHTS OF TOMORROW? WELL, YOU CAN... BY FOLLOWING THE STRANGE STORY OF A YOUNG COUPLE WHO DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF A TIME MACHINE, AND EMBARKED ON AN ADVENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN... INTO THE FUTURE!

I---I THINK I'M OKAY, HUGH ---EXCEPT THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING! IT---IT MUST BE AMNESIA!--- SAY! WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?
THEY---THEY LOOK LIKE BLUEPRINTS--- BUT I NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE! MY MIND IS A BLANK, TOO--- BUT MAYBE THE PRINTS WILL GIVE US A CLUE AS TO WHAT HAPPENED! WHERE IN THE WORLD DID I GET THEM?


HUH? WHY, THIS IS JUST A FANTASTIC HODGE-PODGE OF WIRING, DIAGRAMS AND SYMBOLS! THEY MAKE NO SENSE AT ALL!

BUT WAIT---THOSE ANNOTATIONS AT THE BOTTOM! THEY LOOK COMPLICATED, BUT MAYBE I CAN DECIPHER THEM! THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLANATION FOR THIS WHOLE MYSTERY---AND I INTEND TO FIND THE ANSWER!

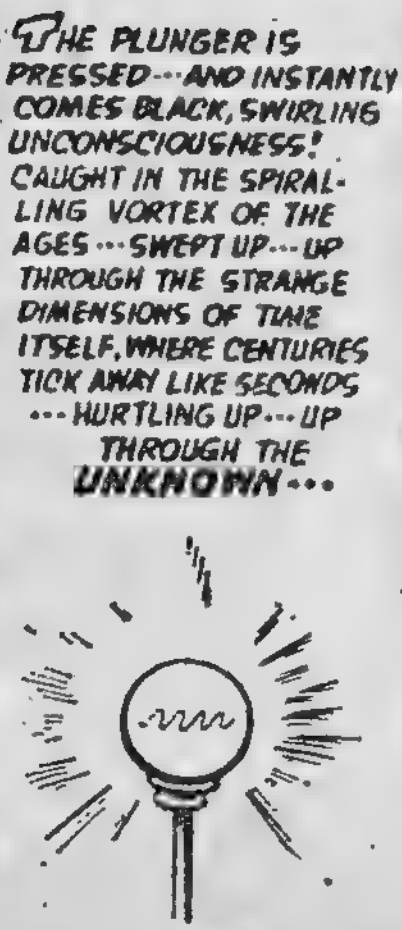
NEXT MORNING:---
HUGH---HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON THOSE PRINTS ALL NIGHT?
YES, AND IT---IT SEEMS UNBELIEVABLE, CORA--- THESE ARE THE PLANS FOR A TIME MACHINE! IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK BY PRODUCING A DISPLACEMENT IN THE HYPER-TEMPORAL FIELD BY MEANS OF A POWERFUL MESOTRONIC STASIS OF THE CONTINUUM---AND ANYONE NEAR THE MACHINE'S FIELD WILL IMMEDIATELY BE PROJECTED INTO THE FUTURE!


WHY, THAT'S NONSENSE, HUGH---IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SOMEONE'S JUST TRYING TO PLAY AN ELABORATE JOKE ON YOU!
IT IS FANTASTIC--- BUT IT'S BARELY POSSIBLE ---IT MAY WORK! THE THEORY BEHIND IT SEEMS REASONABLE ENOUGH---AND I INTEND TO TEST IT BY FOLLOWING THE BLUEPRINTS AND BUILDING THE MACHINE!

DAYS LATER---
IT'S ALL COMPLETE! I'LL JUST SET THE DIAL SLIGHTLY AHEAD---SO THAT IF IT WORKS, IT'LL JUST PROJECT ME A COUPLE OF HOURS INTO THE FUTURE ---OR A COUPLE OF DAYS, AT THE MOST! I DON'T WANT TO GO TOO FAR AHEAD!

OH, HELLO, DARLING! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO WISH ME BON VOYAGE---ON MY TRIP INTO THE UNKNOWN---INTO THE FUTURE!
I---I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT CRAZY CONTRAPTION---BUT JUST IN CASE IT DOES WORK, I WANT TO GO ALONG WITH YOU---WHEREVER IT TAKES YOU!
DANGER

WELL, OKAY ··· I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE'S ANY DANGER IN THIS ··· IT PROBABLY WON'T WORK AT ALL! BUT TO MAKE SURE, JUST HOLD TIGHTLY ON TO ME SO THAT THERE'LL BE A COMPLETE CIRCUIT WITHIN THE TEMPORAL FIELD! READY? I'LL PUSH THE PLUNGER WHEN I COUNT THREE ··· ONE ··· TWO ··· THREE!


THE PLUNGER IS PRESSED ··· AND INSTANTLY COMES BLACK, SWIRLING UNCONSCIOUSNESS! CAUGHT IN THE SPIRALLING VORTEX OF THE AGES ··· SWEPT UP ··· UP THROUGH THE STRANGE DIMENSIONS OF TIME ITSELF, WHERE CENTURIES TICK AWAY LIKE SECONDS ··· HURTLING UP ··· UP THROUGH THE UNKNOWN ···

··· AND ··· INTO THE FUTURE!
WHAM!

OHH ··· MY HEAD! WHERE ··· WHERE ARE WE?
YOU MEAN WHEN ARE WE ··· LOOK! THAT ··· THAT FANTASTIC CITY ··· WE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!

I ··· I GUESS I UNDERESTIMATED THE SCALE ON THE TIME MACHINE'S DIALS ··· EACH UNIT MUST BE A MILLENIUM, RATHER THAN AN HOUR OR DAY! THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY EONS AHEAD WE'VE BEEN THROWN INTO!
AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THOSE ··· THOSE THINGS ARE THAT'RE SOARING TOWARDS US! LOOK!

WHY, THEY ··· THEY'RE ROBOTS ··· APPARENTLY FLYING ON ANTI-GRAVITY BELTS!
WELL, WE'D BETTER START FLYING ··· LOOK AT THOSE STRANGE-LOOKING WEAPONS! COME ON, HUGH ··· RUN!

I ... I CAN'T MOVE ... I CAN'T EVEN HOLD ONTO THE TIME MACHINE ... IT'S AS IF ALL MY NERVES ARE *PARALYZED!*

M-ME, TOO! THEY'RE DOING IT WITH THOSE WEAPONS ... *THEY'VE GOT US!*

YES, WE HAVE YOU ... YOU *SPIES* FROM THE PLANETS OF *MARKAB! SEIZE THEM! ... TAKE THEM TO THE QUEEN!*

PUT US DOWN, YOU BRAINLESS FOOLS! WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE ... ENGLISH ... SO HOW CAN WE BE *MARKABIANS* ... WHOEVER *THEY* ARE?

ENGLISH? OUR LANGUAGE IS *N'YORKESE* ... NAMED AFTER N'YORK, THE CITY YOU ARE NOW IN ... THE CAPITAL OF EARTH! YOU LEARNED OUR TONGUE MERELY TO DECEIVE US IN THE WAR THAT MARKAB WAGES AGAINST OUR UNIVERSE ... AND THE QUEEN WILL SENTENCE YOU TO *DEATH!*

HERE ARE THE MARKABIAN SPIES WE CAPTURED, YOUR MAJESTY!

WHAT? THESE AREN'T MARKABIANS, YOU FOOLS! THEY ... THEY'RE *HUMANS* ... BUT DRESSED IN COSTUMES THAT THE HISTORY BOOKS SAY HAVEN'T BEEN WORN FOR 12,000 YEARS! *HOW DID YOU TWO GET HERE?*

BY MEANS OF A TIME MACHINE! YOU SEE, WE ...

TIME MACHINE? *IMPOSSIBLE!* THERE *WAS* NO TIME TRAVEL 12,000 YEARS AGO! MAYBE YOU *ARE* MARKABIAN SPIES ... HUMANS WHO HAVE TURNED TRAITORS! BUT I WILL SOON FIND OUT ... *COME ... TO THE TIME MUSEUM!*

NOW I WILL KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH! THIS MUSEUM HAS A DUPLICATE OF EVERY TIME MACHINE EVER BUILT ... *WHICH ONE DID YOU USE?*

LET'S SEE ... *KERCHOO* ... HMM, MUST'VE CAUGHT A COLD FLYING THROUGH THE AIR LIKE THAT ... AH, *THERE'S THE ONE!* THAT SMALLEST ONE ON THE END!

THIS ONE? BUT THAT IS THE VERY *FIRST* TIME MACHINE EVER INVENTED ... ALL THROUGH THE AGES, HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DISCOVER WHO ITS INVENTOR WAS, SO THAT HIS NAME COULD BE EMBLAZONED ON THE PAGES OF HISTORY! HOW COULD *YOU* BE THE ONE?

SEARCH ME! ALL I KNOW IS THAT I BUILT IT FROM BLUEPRINTS JUST LIKE *THESE* HERE ... *BUT HOW DID I GET THEM?*

SUDDENLY...
SO! THE ROBOT REPORTS WERE TRUE... A WOMAN!

AT LAST...MY WEARY SEARCH FOR A QUEEN IS OVER! I HAVE SEARCHED ALL OVER EARTH FOR ANY WOMAN WHO MAY HAVE SURVIVED THE STRANGE GAS DROPPED BY THOSE FIENDISH MARKABIANS WHEN THE WAR FIRST STARTED...A GAS WHICH APPARENTLY KILLED ALL FEMALES BUT YOU!
BUT...BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT ABOUT THE QUEEN?

HER? BAH...SHE WAS ON HER WAY FROM MARS TO EARTH WHEN THE GAS WAS DROPPED, AND SO SHE'S ALIVE! I MADE HER QUEEN BECAUSE SHE WAS THE ONLY WOMAN ON EARTH! THERE ARE MANY MORE FEMALES ON MARS, BUT NO MORE ROCKET-SHIPS HAVE ARRIVED FROM THERE BECAUSE OF THE MARKABIAN BLOCKADE!

BUT NOW YOU ...YOU WILL BE MY CHOSEN QUEEN!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY FIANCÉE!

WHAT...YOU DARE TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON THE KING? GUARDS!

NO, YOU DON'T...NOT AS LONG AS I CAN STILL THROW SOME OLD-FASHIONED 20TH CENTURY WALLOPS!
I WILL SUBDUE THIS MAD ONE!
POW!

WHA...WHERE ARE YOU? CAN'T SEE A THING... K...KERCHOO!
EXCELLENT! NOW SEIZE HIM AND THROW HIM IN THE CAGE WITH THE MARKABIAN WE CAPTURED! HAW ...THAT WILL BE A SIGHT!

YOU DIRTY COWARDS---IF THERE WEREN'T SO MANY OF YOU, I'D *REALLY* GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY!

GET IN THAT CAGE!

THE MARKABIAN WILL SILENCE YOUR INSOLENT TONGUE! WE HAVE FOUND NO WAY OF KILLING IT--- IT IS APPARENTLY INDESTRUCTIBLE---SO WE HAVE TRIED *STARVING* IT! YOU WILL FIND IT--- ER-SLIGHTLY *HUNGRY!*

THE MARKABIAN LUMBERS FORWARD, EYES GLINTING DANGEROUSLY! CLOSER IT PROWLS ---*CLOSER*---

AAAHRRGGG!

OHHH! NO--- NO!

WHAT IS IT, CORA? CAN'T SEE---THAT GAS---OR MAYBE IT'S MY COLD THAT'S MAKING MY EYES TEAR SO MUCH--- *K---KER---*

CHOOOO!!

THAT SNEEZE CLEARED MY HEAD AND EYES! NOW I CAN SEE--- *YIIIIPE!*

THE MARKABIAN! IT'S STAGGERING ---FALLING---!

YAAAAGHH!

UGHH! WHAT A---A HORRIBLE *THING!* AND IT---IT ALMOST HAD ME---JUST BEFORE I *SNEEZED!*

I---I DON'T UNDERSTAND---NO WEAPON OF OURS SEEMED TO HARM IT---AND YET NOW IT'S WRITHING IN THE THROES OF DEATH! HOW DID YOU KILL IT--- WHAT STRANGE WEAPON IS THAT--- THAT *SNEEZE?*

A SNEEZE? DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S THE USUAL SYMPTOM OF A COLD... YOU KNOW, THE DISEASE CAUSED BY THE CORYZA VIRUS!

CORYZA? WAIT! NOW I REMEMBER... FROM THE HISTORY BOOKS... THE DISEASE WAS WIPED OUT IN THE FOURTH MILLENIUM! BUT NOW THAT WE KNOW THE VIRUS IS FATAL TO MARKABIANS, OUR SCIENTISTS WILL SYNTHESIZE IT! AT LAST WE HAVE THE WEAPON TO DESTROY THE ENTIRE MARKABIAN RACE! THE HUMAN RACE IS SAVED!

GREAT... THAT MEANS WE'RE SAVED, TOO! NOW YOU CAN RELEASE ME AS A REWARD FOR GIVING YOU THE SECRET, AND YOU CAN LET MY FIANCÉE GO... SINCE YOU CAN NOW CHOOSE YOUR QUEEN FROM THE WOMEN ON MARS!

NO! YOU SEE, I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO THE GIRL! SHE'S TO BE MINE!

WHY, YOU CONTEMPTIBLE, UNGRATEFUL--!

SOK!

LET THAT TEACH-- OHHH! I... I'M PARALYZED AGAIN... CAN'T MOVE...!

INSOLENT DOG! YOU WILL PAY FOR STRIKING THE KING! YOU DIE TONIGHT!

THAT NIGHT, THE SILENCE OF THE DUNGEON IS BROKEN BY A STEALTHY FOOTFALL... A SHADOWY FIGURE EMERGES FROM THE DARKNESS...

THE QUEEN!

SHHH! I HAVE PARALYZED THE GUARDS... I AM HERE TO HELP YOU! THE KING HAS NOTHING BUT CONTEMPT FOR ME... BUT I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE! IF MY PLAN WORKS, I WILL STILL BE THE ONLY QUEEN... AT LEAST UNTIL THE MARS BLOCKADE IS BROKEN!

THANKS, OLD GIRL! IF YOU EVER DO ANY TIME-TRAVELING AROUND HOBOKEN IN THE 20TH CENTURY, GIVE ME A BUZZ... AND I'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOU!

THERE IS NO TIME FOR JESTS! THE WEDDING CEREMONY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN... THE KING IS CAROUSING WITH HIS MEN IN THE PALACE! HERE... TAKE THIS DISINTEGRATOR-RAY GUN... AND LISTEN CLOSELY...

FIVE MINUTES LATER, AT THE PALACE...
NO... MY BRIDE-TO-BE WEEPS, BUT WE'LL SHOW HER REAL GAIETY! LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN... BUT FIRST BRING UP THE PRISONER FOR EXECUTION!
DON'T BOTHER ... HE'S ALREADY HERE!

AS THEY USED TO SAY IN THE OLD WESTERNS... REACH FOR THE SKY!
NEVER FEAR, SIRE! I'LL...
KILL HIM!

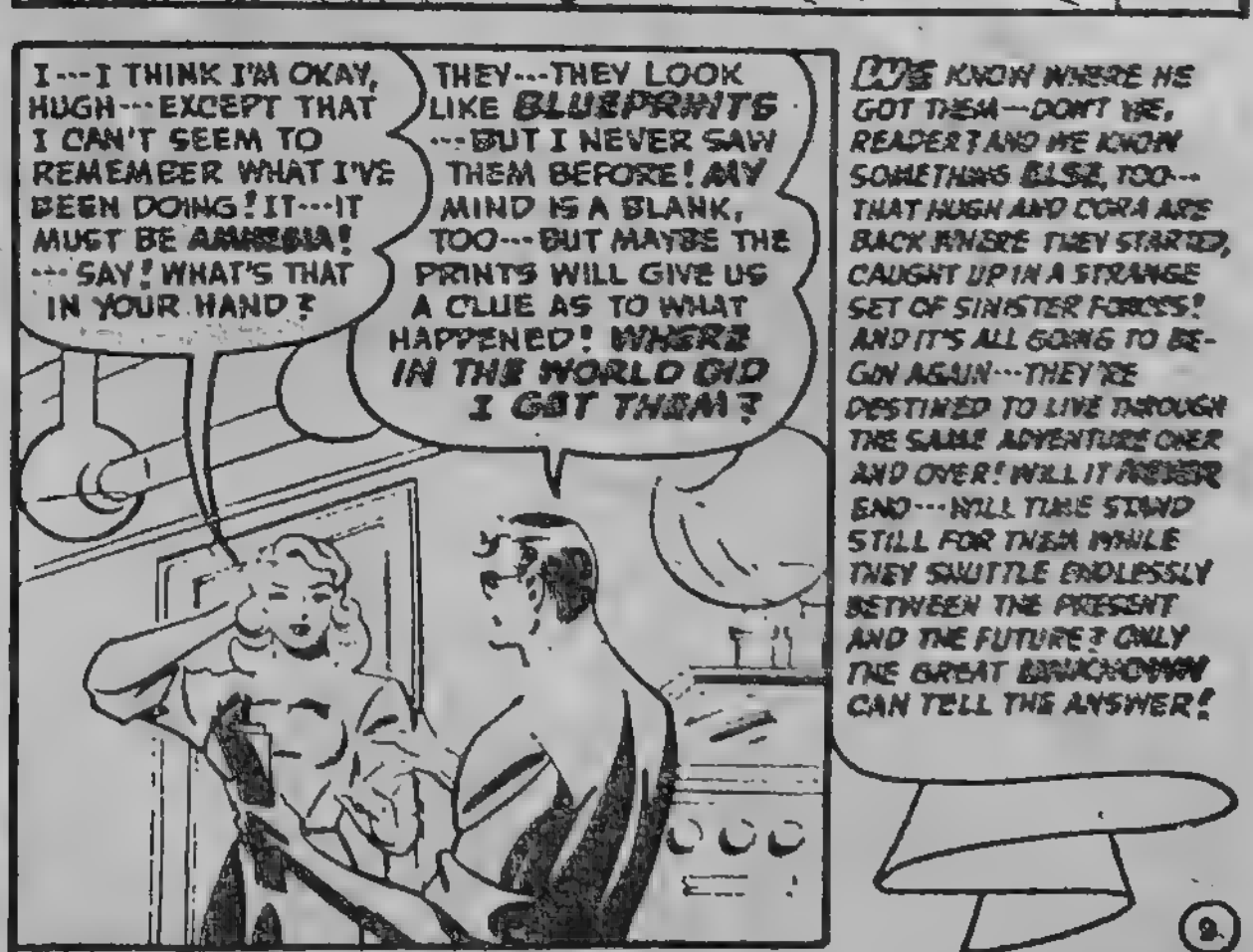
YOU'LL WHAT?
EE-YOW!
POW!

NOW IF THE REST OF YOU DON'T WANT THE SAME TREATMENT, GET 'EM UP! THAT'S IT... OKAY, CORA... COME ON! WE'RE GOING HOME!

HOME? BUT HOW...?
WE'RE HEADING FOR THE TIME MUSEUM... THE OLD QUEEN PROMISED TO SEND US BACK TO OUR TIME! HURRY!
AFTER THEM!

MINUTES LATER...
AH, IT WORKED! AND NOW I WILL SEND YOU BACK TO 1950 A.D. ...WITH A TIME MACHINE OF GUARANTEED ACCURACY! I MUST WARN YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MACHINE HAS THE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF WIPING OUT ALL MEMORIES OF TIME-TRAVEL! IT CAUSES A COMPLETE AMNESIA FOR... WAIT! I HEAR THE KING'S GUARDS OUTSIDE... GIVE ME YOUR GUN!

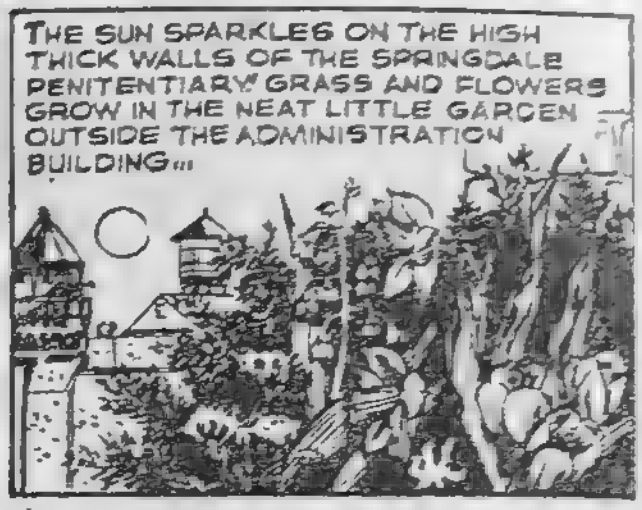
AMNESIA! THAT MEANS WE'LL FORGET THE SECRET OF THE TIME MACHINE! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN... IT'S THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING WE COULD TAKE BACK WITH US WITHOUT THE QUEEN NOTICING ...I'VE GOT IT... THESE BLUEPRINTS!

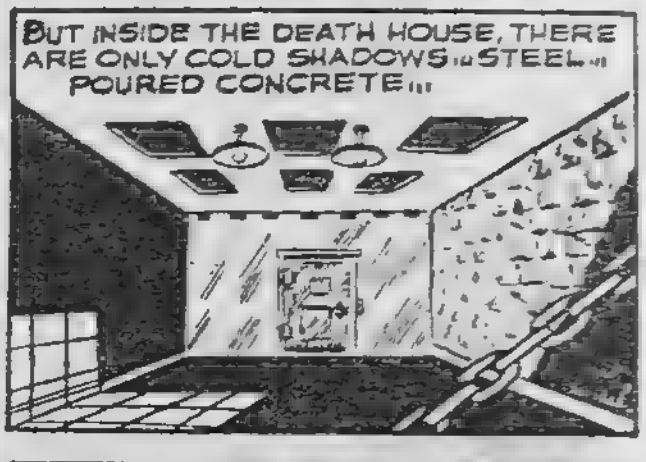


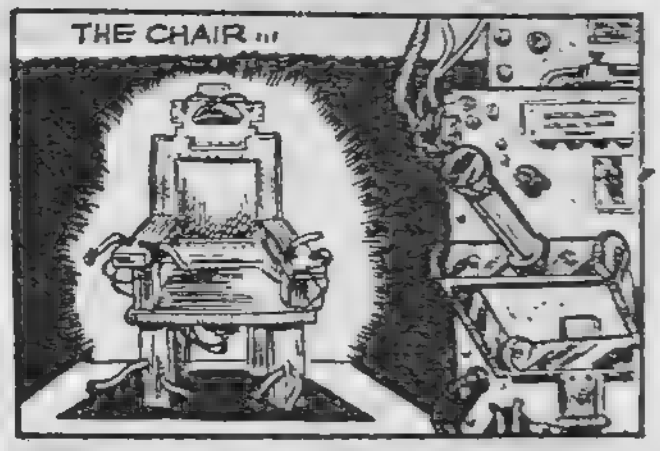
WE KNOW WHERE HE GOT THEM—DON'T WE, READER? AND WE KNOW SOMETHING ELSE, TOO--- THAT HUGH AND CORA ARE BACK WHERE THEY STARTED, CAUGHT UP IN A STRANGE SET OF SINISTER FORCES! AND IT'S ALL GOING TO BEGIN AGAIN---THEY'RE DESTINED TO LIVE THROUGH THE SAME ADVENTURE OVER AND OVER! WILL IT NEVER END---WILL TIME STAND STILL FOR THEM WHILE THEY SHUTTLE ENDLESSLY BETWEEN THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE? ONLY THE GREAT UNKNOWN CAN TELL THE ANSWER!

HERE'S THE WINDUP, AND IT'S A "PITCH" ABOUT A CHARACTER WHO JUST ISN'T AFRAID OF THE ELECTRIC CHAIR... 'CAUSE BLACKIE'S GOT FRIENDS! BUT THE GUY'S DUE FOR A REAL SHOCKING SURPRISE! YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE GETS OUT OF THE "FRYING" PAN!

THEY CAN'T BURN BLACKIE







TODAY, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE ENTERED THE DEATH HOUSE, BLACKIE RADBURN GETS SOME UNSCHEDULED VISITORS...

HIYA, WARDEN! MY FRIENDS REACH THE GOVERNOR YET? YOU COME TO TELL ME THE BURNING'S ALL OFF?

CUT THE COMEDY, BLACKIE! THIS IS PROFESSOR WHITESIDE... I WANT YOU TO LISTEN VERY CLOSELY TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!

I AM AN ASTRONOMER, MR. RADBURN! RECENTLY I HAVE OBSERVED A NEW PLANET! UNLIKE THE OTHER PLANETS, ITS COURSE IS VERY ERRATIC... IT KEEPS ZIG-ZAGGING THRU SPACE AT A TREMENDOUS SPEED! INSIDE A MONTH, IT WILL BE CLOSE ENOUGH TO EARTH TO BE REACHED BY ROCKET! THE JOURNEY, OF COURSE, WILL BE VERY HAZARDOUS!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN ONE THING... WHEN THE GOVERNOR'S GONNA CALL OFF THE BURNING! AND YOU COME AROUND WITH A NUTTY LECTURE!

SHUT UP, BLACKIE! I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU A PROPOSITION!

THE GOVERNOR'S EMPOWERED ME TO GRANT YOU A CHOICE! EITHER YOU BURN IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR AS SCHEDULED... OR YOU VOLUNTEER TO FLY ALONE TO THE NEW PLANET IN A ROCKET!

BLACKIE'S EYES NARROW! HIS JAW WAGS SPECULATIVELY AS HE FIGURES ALL THE ANGLES...

THERE'S SOMETHING PHONY ABOUT THIS OFFER!

I GET IT! MY FRIENDS REACHED THE GOVERNOR... BUT HE'S AFRAID TO COME OUT WITH A STRAIGHT PARDON... THE NEWSPAPERS WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT! SO THEY THOUGHT UP THIS GIMMICK!

THEY FIGURE A TRIP LIKE THIS WILL BLOT OUT ALL THE ROTTEN PUBLICITY I'VE BEEN GETTING!

WANT SOME TIME TO THINK IT OVER, BLACKIE?

I'VE DONE ALL THE THINKING I'M GONNA DO, WARDEN! HOW SOON CAN YOU GET THAT ROCKET READY?

AFTER THE NECESSARY PAPERS HAVE BEEN SIGNED...

IT WON'T GO EASY WITH YOU, WARDEN, ONCE THIS IS RELEASED TO THE NEWSPAPERS!

DON'T I KNOW IT! BUT IT'LL BE BETTER IF I TELL THEM, THAN IF IT LEAKS OUT BY ITSELF!

SO THE WARDEN CALLS IN THE REPORTERS...

GENTLEMEN, BLACKIE RADBURN IS *NOT* GOING TO BURN IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR! INSTEAD, HE HAS VOLUNTEERED FOR AN EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS INTERPLANETARY MISSION!

OF ALL THE DIRTY SELL OUTS! BLACKIE'S FRIENDS MUST'VE SPENT MILLIONS BRIBING EVERYBODY IN SIGHT!

AND THE REPORTERS GET RIGHT TO WORK...

HELLO PRESSROOM... HOLD THE PRESSES! LINE UP OUR BIGGEST TYPE FOR THIS FULL PAGE HEADLINE! HERE IT COMES! *THEY CAN'T BURN BLACKIE!*

WHEN THE PAPERS HIT THE STREET, THE NEWSSTANDS ARE MOBBED!

WUXTRA! WUXTRA! BLACKIE RADBURN'S NOT GONNA BURN! *WUXTRA! WUXTRA!*

NEWS

PROTEST MEETINGS ARE HELD BY IRATE CITIZENS!

HOW CORRUPT CAN OUR OFFICIALS GET? DO THEY THINK THEY CAN PULL THE WOOL OVER OUR EYES FOREVER? NOT BURNING BLACKIE IS LIKE SAYING TO EVERY MURDERER SLINKING ALONG THE STREETS: *GO AHEAD...KILL!* AS LONG AS YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BRIBE US, WE'LL LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!

PETITIONS ARE CIRCULATED! DELEGATIONS ENTRAIN FOR THE STATE CAPITAL!

BLACKIE MUST BURN!

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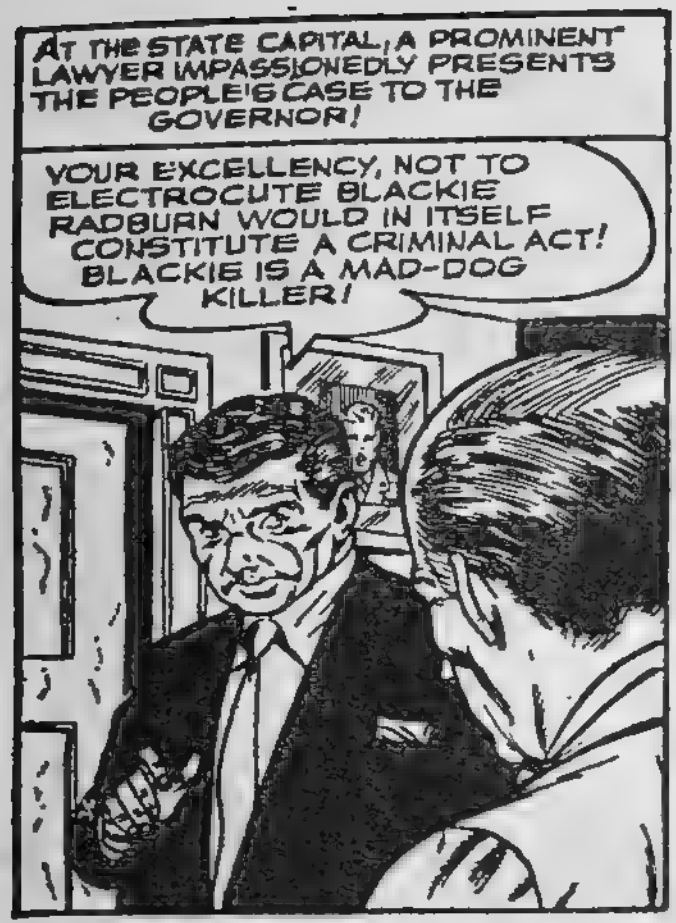
THERE IS ONLY ONE MAN WHO SMILES WHEN HE READS ALL THE ENRAGED EDITORIALS...

THE JERKS! DON'T THEY KNOW THEY'RE UP AGAINST A POWERFUL SYNDICATE? ONCE I GET OUTTA HERE, I'LL BUY UP EVERY ONE OF THESE PAPERS AND SMASH THEIR PRESSES MYSELF WITH AN AX!


AT THE STATE CAPITAL, A PROMINENT LAWYER IMPASSIONEDLY PRESENTS THE PEOPLE'S CASE TO THE GOVERNOR!
YOUR EXCELLENCY, NOT TO ELECTROCUTE BLACKIE RADBURN WOULD IN ITSELF CONSTITUTE A CRIMINAL ACT! BLACKIE IS A MAD-DOG KILLER!

HE HAS ALWAYS FLOUTED THE LAW! WHOLE CITIES WERE TERRORIZED TILL HE WAS APPREHENDED!

"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE MULBERRY MASSACRE... WHEN BLACKIE HAD HIS MEN LINE UP THE MEMBERS OF A RIVAL GANG AGAINST THE WALL OF A GARAGE... THEN HE MOWED THEM DOWN PERSONALLY WITH A MACHINE GUN?"

"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LENOX POST OFFICE ROBBERY... WHEN BLACKIE ESCAPED ONLY BY USING A HUMAN SHIELD TO TAKE THE FULL IMPACT OF THE POLICEMEN'S BULLETS?"

"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE TIME BLACKIE DYNAMITED THE NATIONAL BANK AT HIGH NOON, JUST WHEN IT WAS JAMMED WITH PERSONNEL AND CLIENTS?!"

AND NOW THAT BLACKIE HAS BEEN APPREHENDED, TRIED, AND SENTENCED TO DIE, HOW CAN YOU HAVE THE TEMERITY TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE THAT BLACKIE WILL NOT BURN?

AFTER A LONG SILENCE, THE GOVERNOR GRIMLY SHAKES HIS HEAD...
SORRY, COUNSELOR... BUT MY MIND'S MADE UP! BLACKIE RADBURN IS NOT GOING TO BURN IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
AND THE PEOPLE HAVE NO FURTHER RECOURSE... MUTTERING WITH DISGUST AND RAGE, THEY RETURN TO THEIR HOMES!

THIRTEEN DAYS LATER, THE ROCKET IS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED...

THERE WILL BE NOTHING FOR YOU TO DO BUT PULL THE SPEED-RETARDATION LEVER ONCE YOU ARE APPROACHING THE PLANET, BLACKIE! ALL THE OTHER INSTRUMENTS ARE AUTOMATIC!

RIGHT! BE SEEING YOU, OLD MAN!

AND SEVEN SECONDS LATER...

WHOOOSH

MANY HOURS LATER, BLACKIE'S JOURNEY IS ALMOST AT AN END!

LOOK AT THE WAY THAT CRAZY PLANET KEEPS ZIG-ZAGGING! LEMME SEE NOW!... WHERE'S THAT SPEED-RETARDATION LEVER?

THAT PROFESSOR SURE KNOWS HIS BUSINESS... THE LANDING WAS SMOOTH AS SILK!

MIGHT AS WELL LOOK AROUND...

BUT THE INSTANT BLACKIE'S FOOT MAKES CONTACT WITH THE SOIL OF THE NEW PLANET...

AIEEEEE!

ZZZZZ

I'M BURNING! AAAARGHH!

AT THAT MOMENT, DOWN ON EARTH, PROFESSOR WHITESIDE TURNS GRIMLY AWAY FROM HIS GIANT TELESCOPE...

JUST AS I FEARED, GENTLEMEN... THE NEW PLANET IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION! ITS COURSE IS SO ERRATIC, THAT THE FRICTION CAUSED BY PLUNGING AGAINST THE ATMOSPHERE CREATES ENOUGH STATIC-ELECTRICITY TO *ELECTROCUTE* ANY HUMAN BEING LANDING THERE!

I'LL CALL THE NEWSPAPER MEN IN! I WANT TO TELL THEM HOW BLACKIE *BURNED* AFTER ALL... IN THE *CAUSE OF SCIENCE!*

THAT'S THE WAY IT BEGAN FOR PAUL KILEY, A NICE, WHOLESOME KID WHO WANTED ONLY TO BE LIKE ANYONE ELSE! BUT PAUL **WASN'T** LIKE ANYONE ELSE...PAUL WAS DIFFERENT...A **TELEPATH!** HE HAD THE POWER TO PROBE INTO THE MIND OF ANYONE AND KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT PERSON WAS THINKING!

THE OUTCAST!

I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT FOR A LONG TIME, EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE! BUT I KEPT IT TO MYSELF! I WAS... WELL, SORT OF AFRAID!

GENTLEMEN, THE TESTS SHOW BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT, THAT THIS YOUNG MAN POSSESSES A UNIQUE POWER! HE IS THE **ONLY TRUE TELEPATH** PERHAPS IN THE WORLD!

HE HAD NO FRIENDS! HE NEVER HAD A GIRL... NO ONE WANTED HIM NEAR THEM...

EVERYONE IN THE WORLD HAS SOMEONE... EXCEPT ME! I'M AN OUTCAST... A MAN ALONE!

HE WAS BRILLIANT AND CAPABLE... BUT NO ONE WOULD GIVE HIM A JOB!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAND A JOB! IT'S TOO UNCOMFORTABLE TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE YOU AROUND! WHY DON'T YOU TRY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT?

THANKS... I WILL! I'VE GOT TO GET WORK SOMEHOW!

SO PAUL WORKED WITH THE POLICE, PROBING ROTTEN, CRIMINAL BRAINS FOR THE TRUTH... AND HE LOATHED IT!

HE'S THE ONE! HE'S THINKING OF THE ROBBERY NOW AND WHERE HE HID THE LOOT! I'LL GIVE YOU THE WHOLE PICTURE...

I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS, TOO... I'M A FREAK TO YOU, AS I AM TO THE REST OF THE WORLD! I DON'T BELONG TO THE HUMAN RACE!

YES, HE WAS BITTER, AND ALMOST AT THE END OF HIS ROPE...

LOOK AT THAT STUFF! GIFTS TO ME FROM PEOPLE WHO FAWN ON ME BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME... YET HATE ME!

CAPTAIN, A REPORT JUST CAME IN! CAVE-IN AT AN OLD MINE SHAFT ON THE OUTSKIRTS! AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS PLAYING THERE AND IS TRAPPED!

IF THEY DIG, NOT KNOWING EXACTLY WHERE HE IS, IT COULD BRING THE ROCK DOWN ON HIM! THEY WANT HELP!

MAYBE I CAN HELP! LET'S GO!

IN TEN MINUTES THEY WERE AT THE SCENE OF THE CAVE-IN...

PLEASE BE AS QUIET AS YOU CAN! I'LL TRY TO CONTACT HIS MIND AND LOCATE HIM! WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHAT'S HE INTERESTED IN?

DANNY! HE'S CRAZY ABOUT BASEBALL!

PAUL SENT HIS TELEPATHIC IMPULSES DOWN INTO THE BLACK HOLE...

DANNY, DO YOU HEAR ME? IT'S A FRIEND! MY BODY CAN'T GET DOWN TO YOU, BUT MY MIND WILL BE WITH YOU TO COMFORT YOU, SO DON'T BE AFRAID! DANNY... DO YOU HEAR ME?

FOR MINUTES, HIS THOUGHTS PROBED BENEATH THE EARTH! SUDDENLY, INTO HIS MIND, AN IMPULSE CAME... AND FORMED INTO WORDS!

I HEAR YOU!

I'VE LOCATED HIM! HE'S ABOUT TEN FEET DOWN! DIG SLOWLY... I CAN SENSE THE ROCK SHIFTING!

THE MEN BEGAN TO DIG! THEY CAME CLOSER TO THE BOY, WHILE PAUL SENT DOWN MESSAGES... SOOTHING, REMOVING ALARM FROM THE CHILD'S MIND...

AND I THINK THE DODGERS WILL TAKE THE PENNANT! SAY, HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME TAKING IN A BIG LEAGUE GAME?

WE'VE REACHED HIM!

THEY BROUGHT THE BOY UP, UNHARMED! HE RAN TO PAUL...

I WASN'T AFRAID WITH YOUR VOICE IN MY MIND... I LOVE YOU LIKE I LOVE MY MOMMY AND MY DADDY! YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

I'M GLAD I COULD HELP YOU, DANNY!

THE CHILD'S ARMS WERE WARM AND HIS KISS TOUCHED PAUL'S HEART! HE LOOKED UP AND THE THE PEOPLE WERE LOOKING AT HIM... BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE!

...THEY'RE LOOKING AT ME WITH RESPECT... WITH KINDLINESS! THEY'RE NO LONGER AFRAID! I'M *NOT* AN OUTCAST... A FREAK TO THEM!

PAUL, THAT WAS WONDERFUL! LISTEN, ANY TIME YOU WANT TO PROBE *MY* BRAIN, YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!

THERE WILL BE OTHERS WHO UNDERSTAND! PERHAPS, SOMEDAY, A GIRL... AND THERE MUST BE *OTHER TELEPATHS* IN THE WORLD! MAYBE THE BOY... DANNY! *HE ANSWERED MY THOUGHTS!*

THE END

THE GREEN HAT

GEORGE is a guy who knows more about flying saucers and Mars men than all the fellows who hang out at Pop's candy store. That's because, take it from George, he's seen what most people don't believe, and he knows better than anyone else, he says. George was a little put out when his buddy, Chuck, came along with a few tall tales of his own. That was cutting in on his territory, but George was several stories ahead so he didn't worry.

He got a kick out of telling whoppers. It didn't hurt anybody, he figured. None of it was true, but it exercised his imagination, he told Pop one night.

"You get a good sleep and exercise yourself into the employment agency tomorrow morning for a steady job," Pop advised.

"Have a heart, pop. The ink on my diploma's hardly dry."

"Blot it," said pop. "Your credit just ran ou

George left the store. He promised himself an extra week's vacation before settling down to work. He walked along whistling softly and turned at the corner. He hadn't figured on the little guy who was bending over, hands and knees on the sidewalk. George tripped and sprawled to the ground.

"Say, mister, isn't it kind of late for you to be crawling around without a leash? Why didn't you bark out and warn me?"

"Sorry," muttered the funny fellow, not even getting up.

"Well, as long as I'm down here, too," said George, bracing himself on his elbow as if it was most natural to stretch out on the sidewalk late at night, "can I help you look for whatever you've lost?"

"You won't be able to see it," the man replied. "A sudden breeze came along as I neared the corner, and before I knew it . . . off it went. I started to run and I fell. Now I'm missing my eyeglasses, too."

"Have you ever thought of advertising?" George joked.

"Mercy, no!" came the quick reply. "What good is that, when only my friends can help, and I know where they can be reached."

George got to his feet wondering if the poor guy had hit his head when he fell. As he stood up he saw a bright green object flickering like a firefly from the roadway. He ran toward it, and it turned out to be a man's hat twinkling like a neon sign. He picked it up and brought it back to his sidewalk acquaintance.

"Can't say I admire your taste, but if this is yours . . ."

"I am amazed!"

"Feeling's mutual," George replied, staring with fascination as the man put the green glow upon his head. "How much are they getting for a fancy lid like that? Only blue's more my color . . ."

"You are one of us! I've never seen you at the meetings. It is amazing that an ordinary common boy . . . a homo sapiens . . ."

"Easy on the insults, mister."

"You have the gift of the Green Goddess, my lad. I will teach you to use it wisely and guard it well. My other friends are far away on important missions to bring good fortune and prosperity wherever they go. I have a job for you to do of the highest importance."

"Oh, your friends can't be *that* far away," George protested.

"A few million miles," the little man said casually. "That makes it slightly difficult to get one here in a hurry."

"You've got a point," George agreed.

"And now that you've come to my rescue, you will help me track down my missing eyeglasses. Without them I cannot do any paper work. The success of my goodwill mission depends upon my sight, and without the glasses I will be lost. For the greater good of humanity, you must help me find them. You can see the Goddess of the Green Light, invisible to other earth men. Do not fail me."

"Look, buddy, I'd like to help out, but I've got to get up real early tomorrow. I was counting on going to the employment agency for a job and . . ."

"I will meet you there."

"That's awfully sociable of you, but . . ."

"We will coordinate our search throughout the city. Good night, Green Friend."

"You can call me George."

"Axtel is my name," and with a polite flicker of his luminous green hat, the strange man hurried away.

George left the house early and headed for the sand lots to see if any of the younger kids were playing stickball. He had no intention of going to the job agency and meeting Axtel.

The kids had just begun to organize what promised to be a sensational game. And along came the little man, a determined look on his face under the green fedora, still on his head. He pounced upon George as if they were buddies.

"So there you are, my good fellow! You didn't show up at the agency, so I wasted no time in getting here."

"Obviously," said George,

wondering to himself about the special gift that could lead Axtel to him without anyone else's information. Too bad he couldn't track down things as well as people.

"Have you checked the lot?" Axtel asked.

"What? Oh, you mean for the glasses."

Axtel looked pleased.

"As a matter of fact I was just waiting for you," George explained.

"Excellent! Maybe these young friends will stand aside while we do our work."

"Sure thing. Hey, kids, will you clear the field for a few minutes?" And then to Axtel, "Why don't you take your hat off on a hot day like this?"

One of the youngsters was standing by, and he began to laugh heartily. "Get him! Always making jokes, George is. And the guy sure enough reached for his head as if he had a hat. George was only ribbing him."

"Don't you understand," Axtel whispered to George knowingly. "No one can see the hat but those with the gift of the Green Goddess. Next time be more careful what you say about it."

George and Axtel covered the field unsuccessfully. The young boys stared after them suspiciously. Sadly, George realized that he couldn't go back to play with them. He felt too self-conscious. Any explanations he might try to give them would be hooted at.

"Let's get out of here," he said to Axtel. He walked away glumly feeling that his day was already ruined. "Look, mister, I'd like to get in a few frames of bowling. Why don't you take off on your own now."

"I'll go with you," Axtel volunteered cheerfully. "Think of all the places we can cover if we search for my glasses this way. It's really simpler to have you with free time on your hands, than on a steady job."

"That does it!" George shook his head hopelessly. He headed for the employment agency with the little man right at his heels.

"You're not very anxious to oblige me," scolded Axtel.

"You've got me wrong," said George. "It's just that I'm finished loafing around. If I find those glasses I'll let you know right away. Just tell me where I can reach you."

"At noon each day I stop by a cafeteria on Main street. Meet me in front of it today, and do not fail me. If you do, I'll show up just like I did this morning. I might even decide to get a job the same place you're working just to keep my eye on you."

"That won't be necessary," George hastily assured him. I'll meet you there later."

As it turned out, George was

quite pleased with the new swing of events. At the agency he came through his interview very well. They offered him a job in training with a radio parts company. He was quite happy about it and looked forward to his first day at work. It was an exciting change in his life and one that he should have made a long time ago, he now realized.

He had only one real problem though, and that was the persistent little man. If he could only find another guy for Axtel to shadow. And that's when he thought of Chuck. He might even trick Chuck into kidding Axtel along about seeing the green hat. But how could he remove himself from the picture . . . unless. He had it! He would tell Axtel that he was no longer able to see the hat. He would do it cleverly to avoid Axtel's suspicions. What a great idea! He would be useless to Axtel without the Green Goddess' gift of sight.

He whistled happily as he headed for the cafeteria. He was early, so he decided to have his lunch before keeping his appointment with Axtel.

As he took his check on the way in, his eyes greeted the young lady cashier.

"Good afternoon!" She smiled, and George thought that this was the most beautiful girl he had ever met in his life.

Every so often as he sat and sipped his milk, his eyes would catch hers. On his way out he couldn't resist sharing his good news with her.

"I'm starting on a new job this afternoon at the Central Radio factory," he announced proudly.

"Isn't that wonderful!" she exclaimed. "That's not far from here."

"I have the address written down," said George, "but I've never been there."

"I'll point it out to you, if you'd like. I'm off duty now, and I just have to meet my father. I always take him his lunch from the cafeteria."

"That's wonderful!" George said admiringly.

What a terrific day, he thought. And to top it all was his scheme to fool Axtel and the Green Goddess once and for all!

The pretty cashier took her handbag. She turned to the mirror and patted her hair. A sudden green glow covered her head. George blinked in amazement. She was wearing a woman's bonnet that gave off the same fabulous light as Axtel's hat!

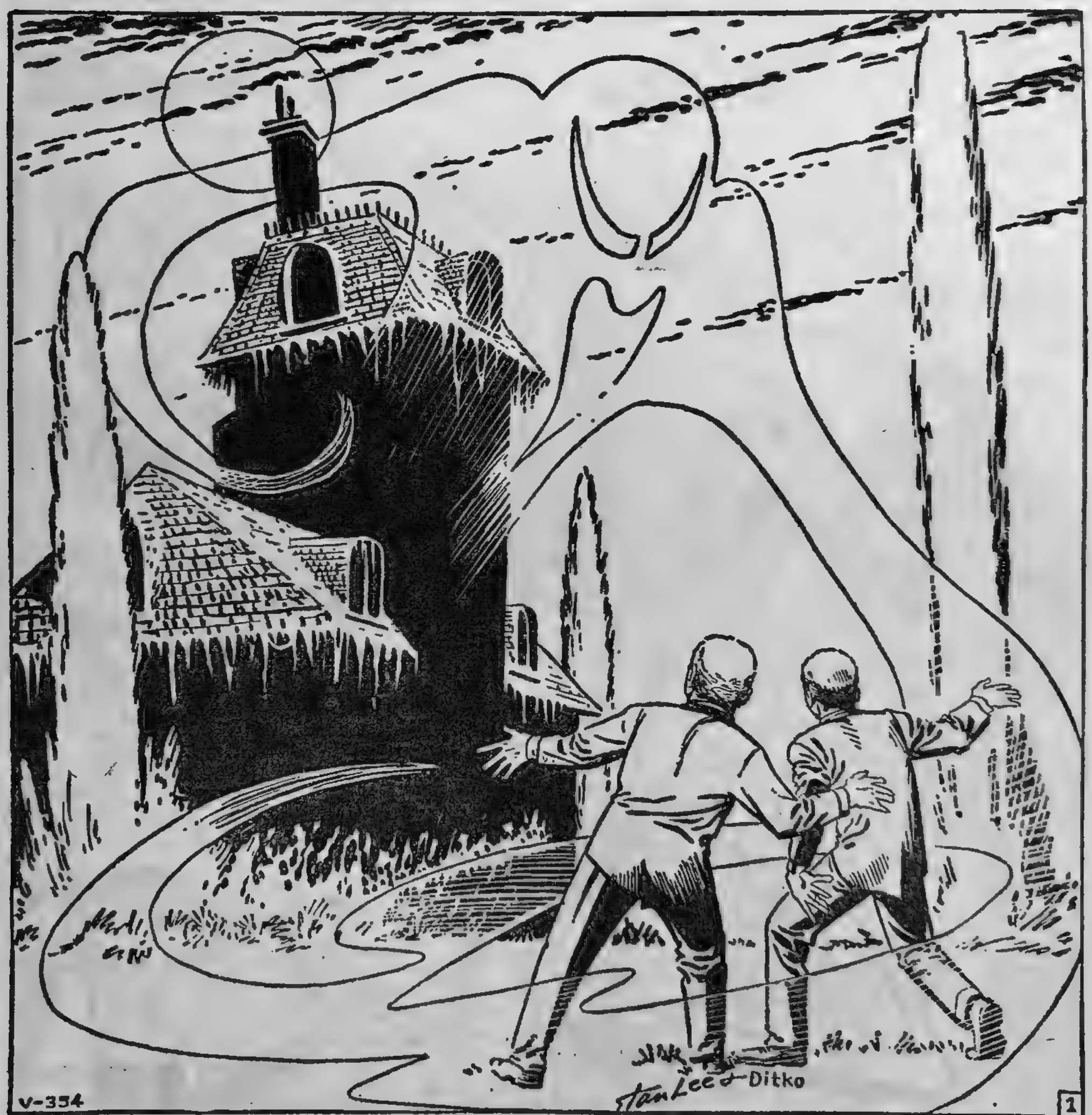
She sailed out the door, just as Axtel appeared.

"Father!" she greeted him fondly.

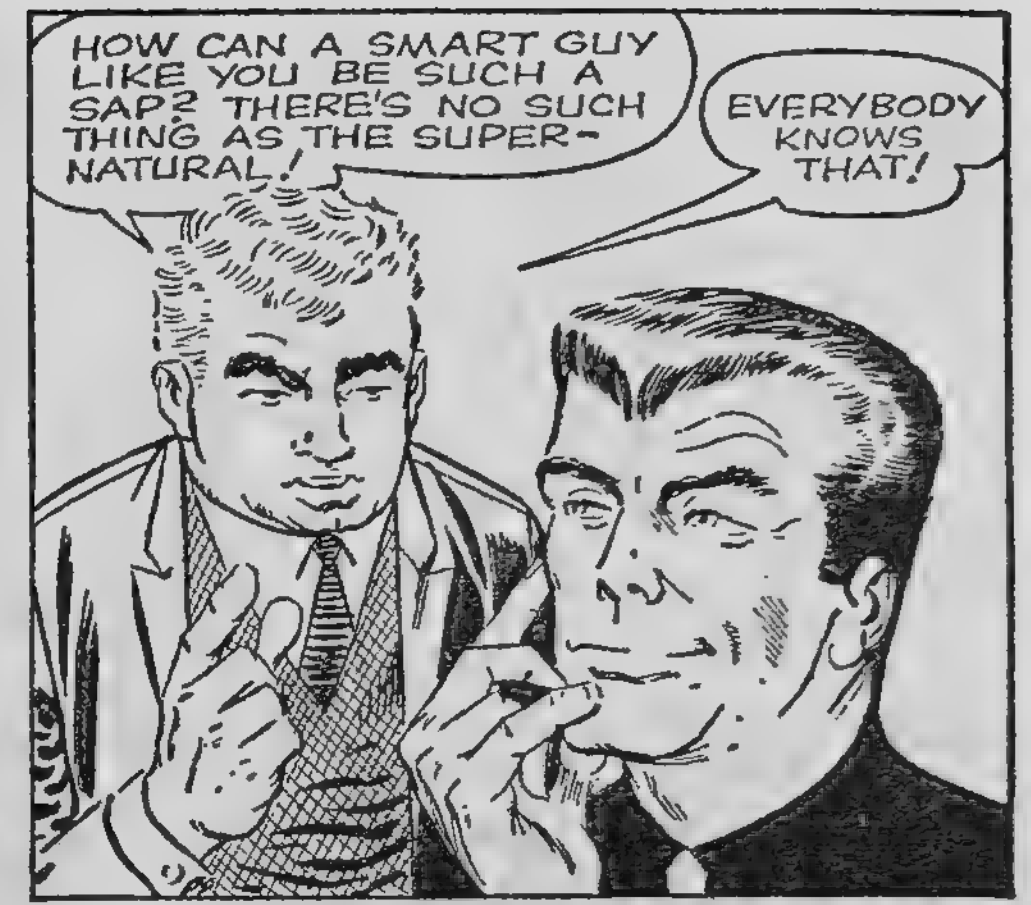
George had a sudden change of heart. After all, how could he trick the poor guy that way. The least he could do was help look for those glasses!

THE END

WHERE LURKS THE GHOST!



JOE, ARE YOU STILL SAVING THESE WHACKY CLIPPINGS ABOUT HAUNTED HOUSES?
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE WHACKY, MIKE! YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE SUPERNATURAL FOR YEARS!


HOW CAN A SMART GUY LIKE YOU BE SUCH A SAP? THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE SUPER-NATURAL!
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!

SO EVERYBODY **KNOWS** IT, EH? OKAY, COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO **SETTLE** THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

THERE! THAT'S THE OLD BRENT ESTATE! THAT DESERTED MANSION HAS BEEN HAUNTED FOR **YEARS!**
SEZ **WHO?**

DON'T TAKE **MY** WORD FOR IT, CHUM! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS SPEND A NIGHT IN THERE! IF YOU TELL ME NEXT MORNING THAT YOU DIDN'T SEE A GHOST, THEN I'LL APOLOGIZE AND ADMIT I'VE BEEN ALL WRONG!

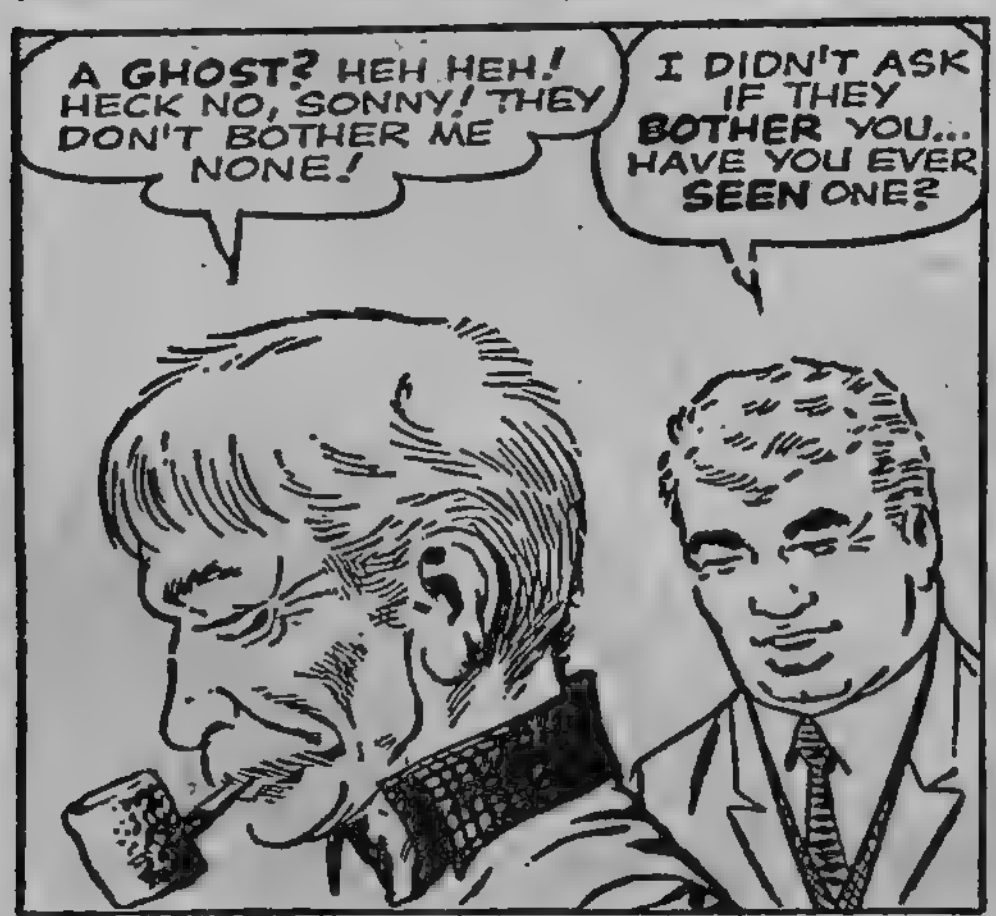
BOY! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REAL EASY WAY TO BRING YOU TO YOUR SENSES, JOE!
IT'S A DEAL!

AND SO, AS TWILIGHT FALLS...
HEY! I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS DESERTED!
IT IS, SIR! I'M THE CARETAKER!

SOMEBODY HAS TO KEEP IT FROM GOING TO SEED...
WELL, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I SPEND THE NIGHT HERE? JUST FOR A GAG!

OF COURSE! I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE SOME COMPANY FOR A CHANGE!
GOOD!

DON'T LET THE FURNISHINGS DEPRESS YOU! THEY MUST BE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD!
THEY SAY THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED! TELL ME, OLD TIMER... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A GHOST HERE?


A GHOST? HEH HEH! HECK NO, SONNY! THEY DON'T BOTHER ME NONE!
I DIDN'T ASK IF THEY BOTHER YOU... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ONE?

NOT A ONE, MISTER! NOTHIN' BUT DUST AND COBWEBS!
I KNEW IT!

WELL, I GUESS I'VE SHOWN YOU THE WHOLE PLACE! CAN'T GO ANY HIGHER THAN THIS! THIS IS THE ATTIC!

I'M GETTING SLEEPY... WHERE CAN I BED DOWN?
I SUPPOSE YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE DOWNSTAIRS! IT'S A MITE DRAFTY UP HERE!

HERE NOW... THIS COUCH IS PRETTY SOFT! AIN'T BEEN SAT ON FOR YEARS!
I SURE APPRECIATE THIS, OLD-TIMER! WELL ≡YAWN≡ SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

HA! I DON'T MIND SLEEPING ON AN OLD COUCH FOR ONE NIGHT IF IT'LL HELP ME TO CONVINCE JOE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT THERE JUST AREN'T ANY GHOSTS!
BOY, AM I SLEEPY!

ZZZZ∞

WAKE UP!!

WAKE UP!
HUH??!

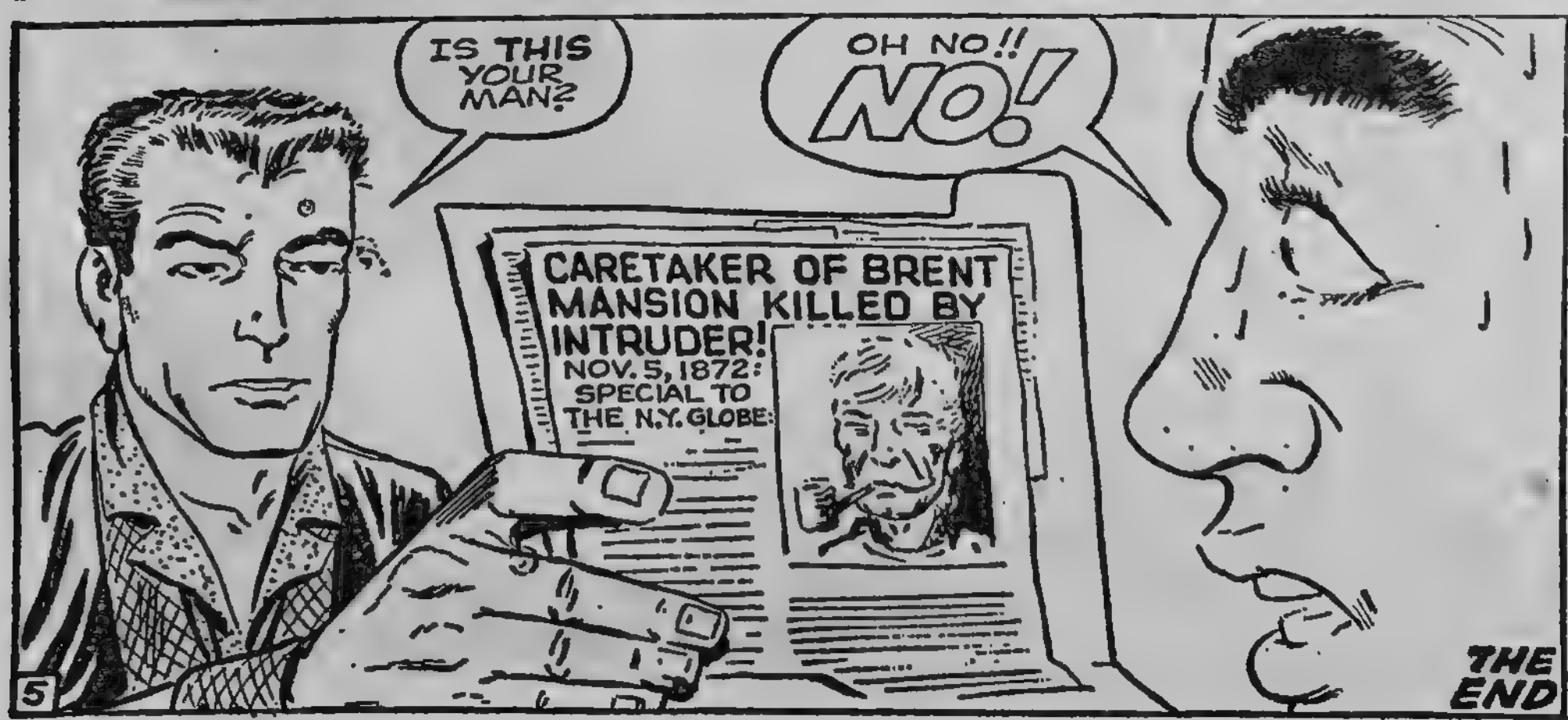
SORRY I STARTLED YOU, BUT IT'S ALMOST DAWN! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO GET AN EARLY START!
WHEW

GOODBYE, YOU OLD HAUNTED HOUSE, YOU!
HA HA HA!

WELL, I HOPE THIS CLINCHES IT, PAL! THERE WASN'T A GHOST IN SIGHT!
THERE WASN'T?

AND I'VE EVEN GOT A WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT I WAS THERE ALL NIGHT!
A WITNESS??

YEP! THE OLD CARETAKER HIMSELF! HE WAS WITH ME ALL THE TIME!
THE OLD CARETAKER, EH?


IS THIS YOUR MAN?
OH NO!! NO!
CARETAKER OF BRENT MANSION KILLED BY INTRUDER!
NOV. 5, 1872: SPECIAL TO THE N.Y. GLOBE:
THE END

the CHANGELING

BORED WITH THE PRESENT? WANT TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL? THEN COME WITH US INTO THE FUTURE! THERE, IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS THE WAY THEY APPEAR!...NO, NOT-ALWAYS-THE-WAY-THEY-APPEAR!!!

EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY, I HAD WANTED TO VISIT THE EARTH, HOME OF MY ANCESTORS!
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, JOHN, WE ON CENTAURIUS II WILL NEVER RETURN TO EARTH!
BUT WHY NOT? WHY CAN'T WE GO BACK THERE?

JOHN, OUR FOREBEARS CAME TO THIS STAR MANY YEARS AGO! IN THE CENTURIES THAT FOLLOWED, WE DIDN'T RETURN TO EARTH BECAUSE IT WAS TOO LONG A JOURNEY!

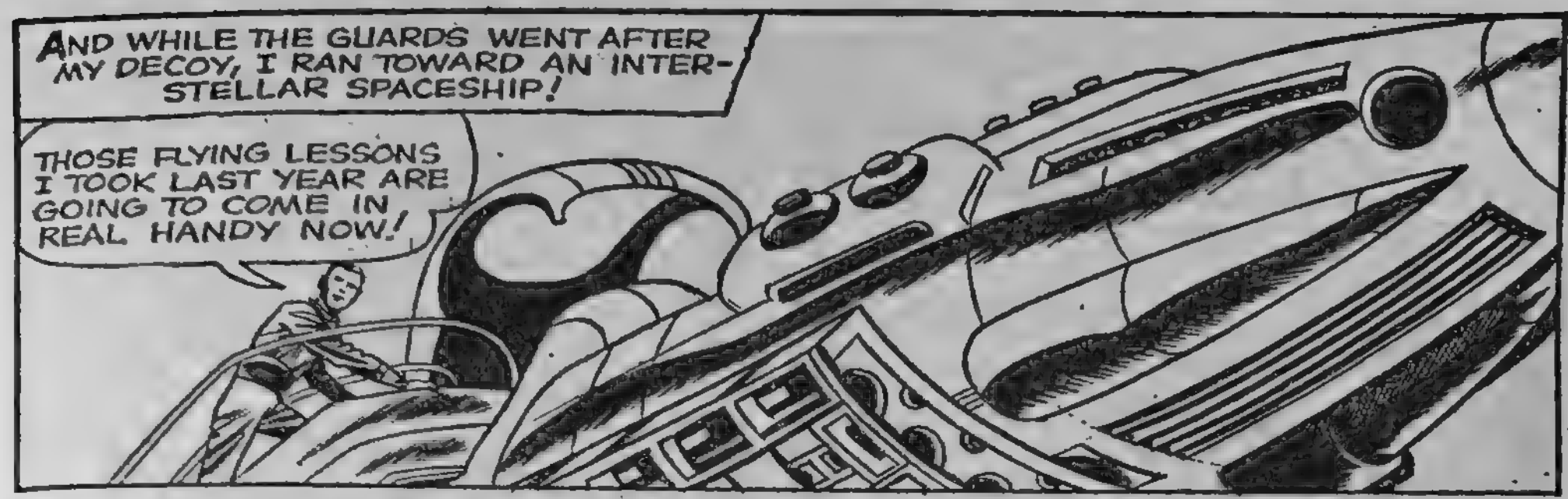
NOW, WE FINALLY HAVE SPACESHIPS THAT CAN MAKE THE TRIP QUICKLY! BUT OUR SCIENTISTS TELL US NOT TO GO! THEY SAY THAT WE HAVE CHANGED IN ALL THE GENERATIONS WE'VE BEEN HERE--THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO LIVE ON EARTH!

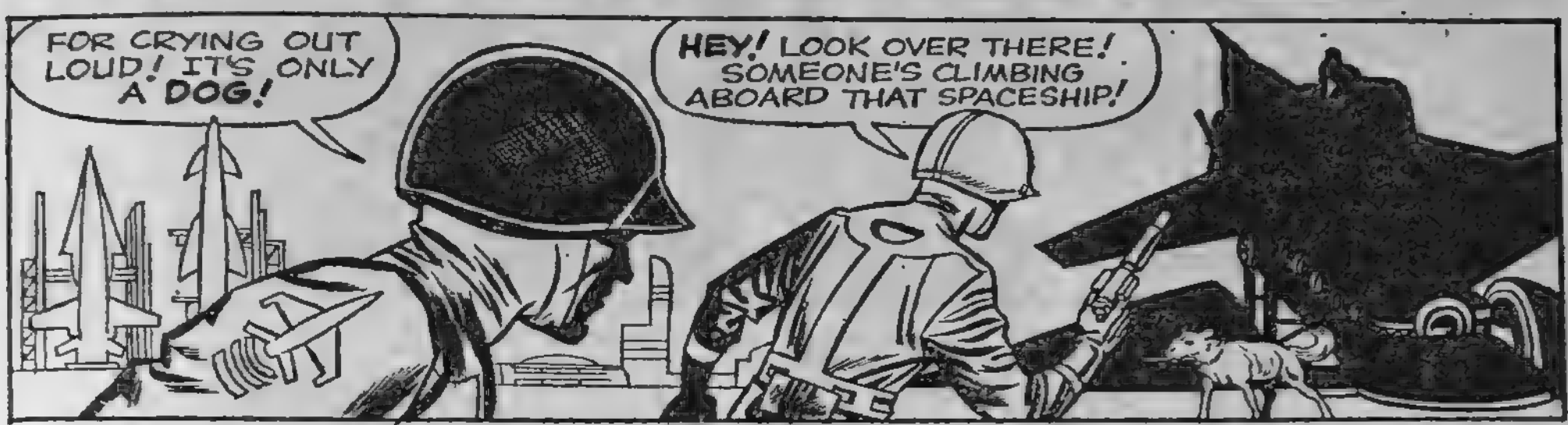
YES, THAT WAS THE ANSWER EVERYONE GAVE ME WHEN I SUGGESTED GOING TO EARTH! BUT THAT ANSWER DIDN'T SATISFY ME... NOT WHEN I WAS A BOY ...AND NOT WHEN I WAS A TEEN-AGER...
THE SCIENTISTS SAY WE'VE CHANGED, BUT THEY CAN'T PROVE IT! IT'S POSSIBLE THAT WE HAVEN'T CHANGED...THAT WE'RE JUST LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED BEHIND ON EARTH!

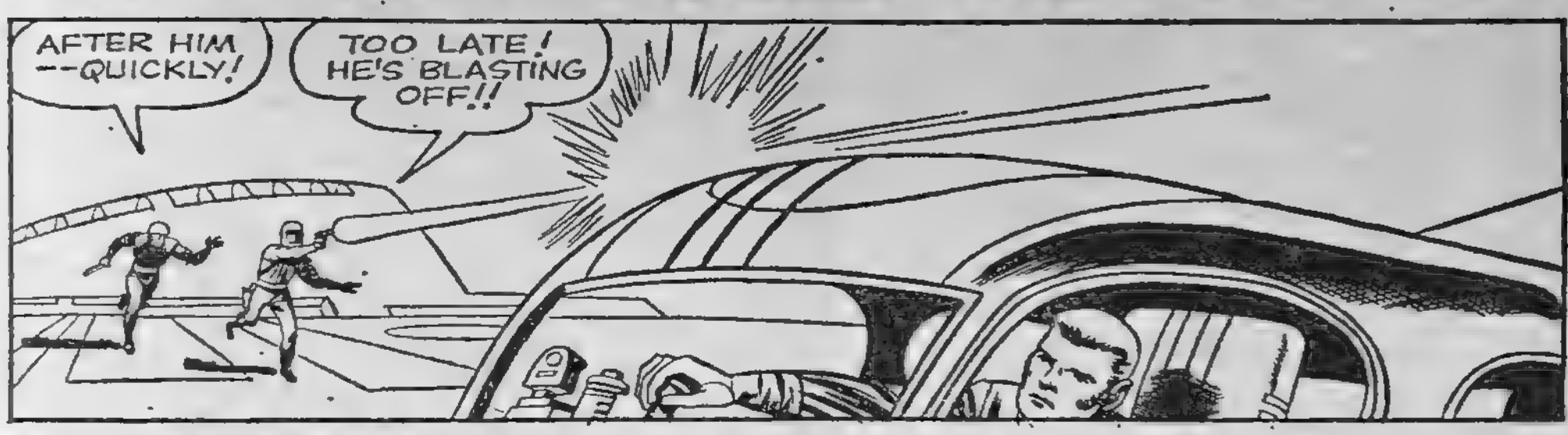
I TELL YOU, ALANA, SOME DAY I'M GOING TO EARTH AND FIND OUT FOR MYSELF WHAT IT'S LIKE THERE!

AND THAT DAY CAME A FEW YEARS LATER...
THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED FLIGHTS TO EARTH... SO IF I WANT TO GET THERE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT THE HARD WAY!
GO ON, KING! FETCH THE STICK!

HEY, MY WRIST RADAR HAS PICKED UP AN OBJECT MOVING SOUTH ON THE AIRSTRIP!
NOBODY IS AUTHORIZED THERE AT THIS HOUR! WE'D BETTER SEE WHAT'S UP!


AND WHILE THE GUARDS WENT AFTER MY DECOY, I RAN TOWARD AN INTER-STELLAR SPACESHIP!
THOSE FLYING LESSONS I TOOK LAST YEAR ARE GOING TO COME IN REAL HANDY NOW!


FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! IT'S ONLY A DOG!
HEY! LOOK OVER THERE! SOMEONE'S CLIMBING ABOARD THAT SPACESHIP!


AFTER HIM --QUICKLY!
TOO LATE! HE'S BLASTING OFF!!

MISSED HIM!
(WHEW) MADE IT JUST IN TIME!

NOW TO REACH EARTH AND PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T RETURN TO OUR MOTHER PLANET AFTER ALL THESE AGES!

TRAVELLING AT FASTER-THAN-LIGHT SPEEDS; MY SHIP SOON SPANNED THE VAST GALAXIES OF THE UNIVERSE!

FINALLY, I WAS APPROACHING THE ALMOST LEGENDARY PLANET... EARTH!
I CAN MAKE OUT THE CONTINENTS AND OCEANS! THEY'RE JUST AS OUR ANCESTORS DESCRIBED THEM!

I ORBITED THE WORLD A FEW TIMES AND EXAMINED IT THROUGH THE VIDEO-MAGNISCOPE!
THEY HAVE FARMS--NOT TOO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ON CENTAURIUS II!

AND THOUGH THEIR CITIES AREN'T AS MODERN AS OURS, THEY SEEM WELL BUILT AND PLEASANT TO LOOK AT!

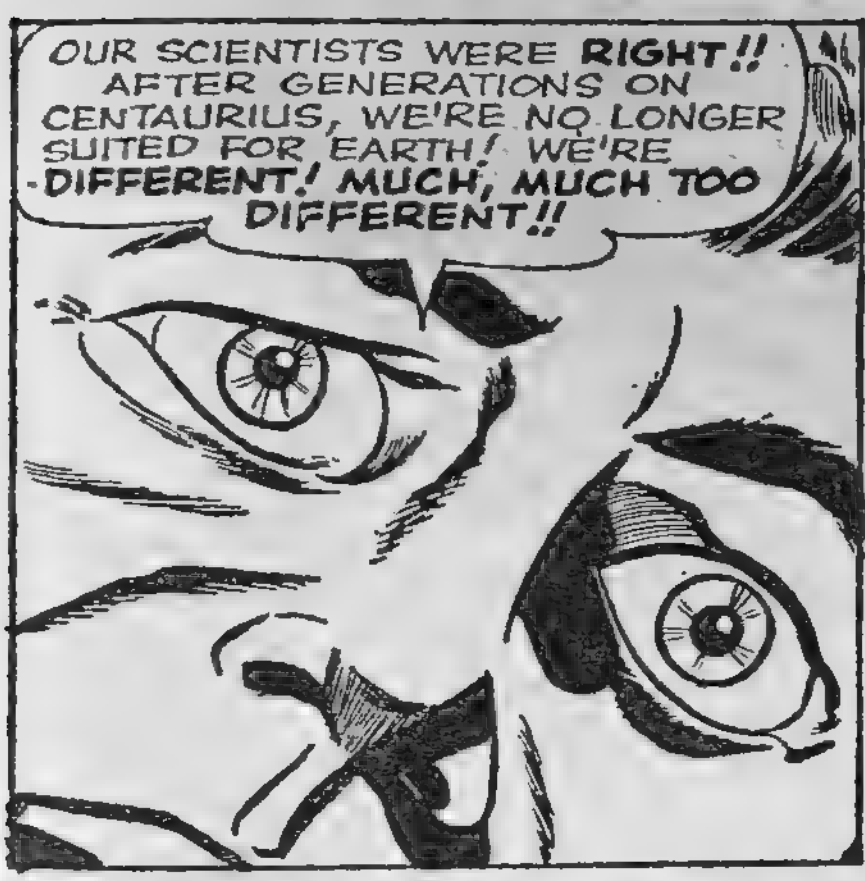
AND THE EARTH PEOPLE--THEY HAVE THE SAME FEATURES AND FORM AS WE! THE PASSING AGES HAVEN'T MADE US ANY DIFFERENT!

THE EARTHLINGS SEEM FRIENDLY AND INDUSTRIOUS! THEY WILL SURELY WELCOME ME! I'M GOING TO LAND!

WITHIN MOMENTS, BROTHER WILL MEET BROTHER! WHAT A GLORIOUS EVENT IT WILL BE! HOW FOOLISH WERE OUR SCIENTISTS TO SAY OUR PEOPLE COULD NO LONGER ADAPT TO EARTH!

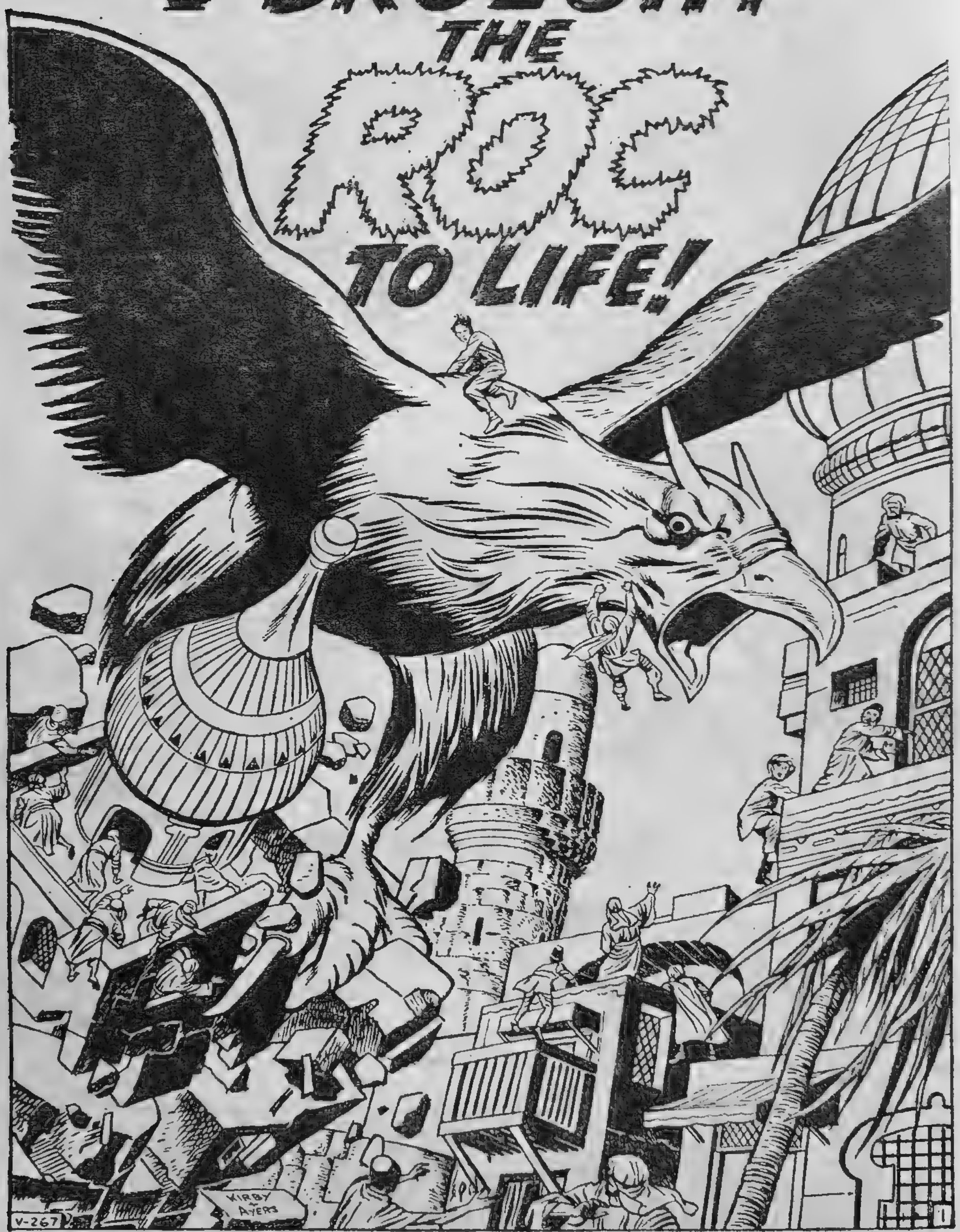
A PERFECT LANDING! NOW I SHALL GREET THE EARTHLINGS--MY KINSMEN!!

I RUSHED TO THE DOOR AND OPENED IT EAGERLY! BUT WHEN I STEPPED OUTSIDE--WHEN I SAW--
WHAT--WHAT HAVE I DONE?!! I'VE MADE A MISTAKE!! A FANTASTIC MISTAKE!!


OUR SCIENTISTS WERE RIGHT!! AFTER GENERATIONS ON CENTAURIUS, WE'RE NO LONGER SUITED FOR EARTH! WE'RE DIFFERENT! MUCH, MUCH TOO DIFFERENT!!

I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY ELDERS! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE! IT IS TOO FANTASTIC... TOO IMPOSSIBLE!! I MUST RETURN AT ONCE!

EDITOR'S NOTE:
AND SO, THE CHANGELING TOOK OFF FROM EARTH, UNSEEN... UNHEARD! BUT THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED! FOR AFTER ALL, HOW MANY OF US WOULD NOTICE A SPACESHIP THAT IS ONLY... HALF AN INCH LONG???


I BROUGHT THE BOSS TO LIFE!
KIRBY & AYERS
V-267

ONE FATEFUL DAY LAST YEAR, THE AFTERNOON QUIET OF A SMALL EUROPEAN TOWN WAS SUDDENLY SHATTERED BY A FEARFUL CRY OF ALARM!

LOOK! IT'S--IT'S--

THE WINGED MAMMOTH!

HE IS SWOOPING TOWARDS US!

FLEE!! FLEE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

THE HUGE OMINOUS SHADOW CAME CLOSER--CLOSER--UNTIL AT LAST...

BEHOLD! HE HOVERS ABOVE US!

WE ARE DOOMED! HE IS STARTING TO DIVE!

UNAWARE OF THAT FANTASTIC EVENT, AT THAT MOMENT I WAS IN SWITZERLAND... ON A TRAIN SPEEDING THROUGH THE ALPS!

THEY MUST LISTEN TO ME! THEY MUST ACCEPT MY PLAN! THE FATE OF THE WHOLE WORLD HANGS IN THE BALANCE!

IT'S ALL BEEN SO INCREDIBLE!! LIKE A HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE! AND YET, IT BEGAN SO INNOCENTLY... SO INNOCENTLY...

THERE I WAS, AT THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE! I HAD JUST MARRIED ANNE!

HAPPY, DARLING?

OF COURSE!

NOT SORRY TO BE THE WIFE OF A STUFFY ARCHEOLOGIST?

I SHOULD SAY NOT! NOT WHEN MY HUSBAND'S WORK GIVES ME A CHANCE TO HONEYMOON IN THE MIDDLE EAST!

IT WAS A COMBINATION HONEYMOON AND SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION! FIRST ANNE AND I WENT TO CAIRO...

THERE IT IS, ANNE! CAIRO--CITY OF MYSTERY, INTRIGUE, AND A THOUSAND EXOTIC DELIGHTS!

UMMM.....

OH, DARLING, WHAT A ROMANTIC VIEW!

SO LONG AS **YOU'RE** WITH ME, ANY VIEW IS ROMANTIC!

WON'T MOM JUST **ADORE** THIS?

WE'LL SEND IT TO HER SOON AS WE GET BACK TO THE HOTEL!

THEN, AFTER A FEW DAYS, ANNE AND I LEFT CAIRO AND WENT INTO THE DESERT!

I HOPE EXPLORING OLD RUINS WON'T BE A BORE TO YOU, HONEY!

OF COURSE IT WON'T, DARLING! I'VE ALWAYS ENJOYED RUMMAGING THROUGH THINGS!

WE HAD BEEN TRAVELING FOR SEVERAL HOURS, WHEN ANNE SUDDENLY SAID TO ME...

JOHN, I'VE BEEN OBSERVING THE SAND DUNES WE'VE PASSED, AND **THAT** ONE IS **DIFFERENT** FROM ALL THE OTHERS!

DIFFERENT? HOW SO??

ITS SHAPE IS GEOMETRICALLY **PERFECT!**

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT--IT **IS!**

I STOPPED THE CAR AND GOT OUT!

SAND DUNES ARE ALWAYS IRREGULAR... UNLESS THEY'RE COVERING AN **OBJECT**--A PERFECTLY **ROUND** OBJECT!

I'M GOING TO DIG IN, ANNE, AND SEE WHAT'S **BURIED** HERE!

WHATEVER IS UNDER HERE MUST BE **ENORMOUS!**

WHAT COULD IT **POSSIBLY BE??**

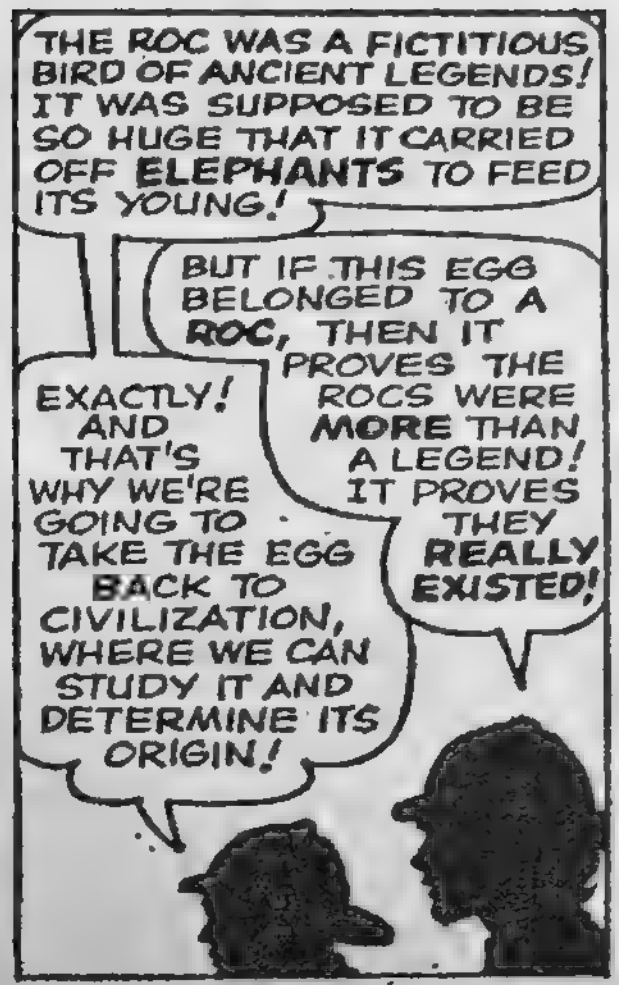
I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE AN ANCIENT TOMB!

BUT A HALF-HOUR LATER WHEN I REACHED THE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED OBJECT...WHEN I UNEARTHED IT....

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!

IT JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE!

IT'S AN EGG!! BUT IT'S SO GIGANTIC! THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BIRD ON EARTH SO BIG, HAS THERE, JOHN??
NO! NOT UNLESS-- UNLESS-- YES, THAT'S IT! THE ROC!! THE GIANT ROC!!


THE ROC WAS A FICTITIOUS BIRD OF ANCIENT LEGENDS! IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SO HUGE THAT IT CARRIED OFF ELEPHANTS TO FEED ITS YOUNG!
BUT IF THIS EGG BELONGED TO A ROC, THEN IT PROVES THE ROCS WERE MORE THAN A LEGEND! IT PROVES THEY REALLY EXISTED!
EXACTLY! AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THE EGG BACK TO CIVILIZATION, WHERE WE CAN STUDY IT AND DETERMINE ITS ORIGIN!

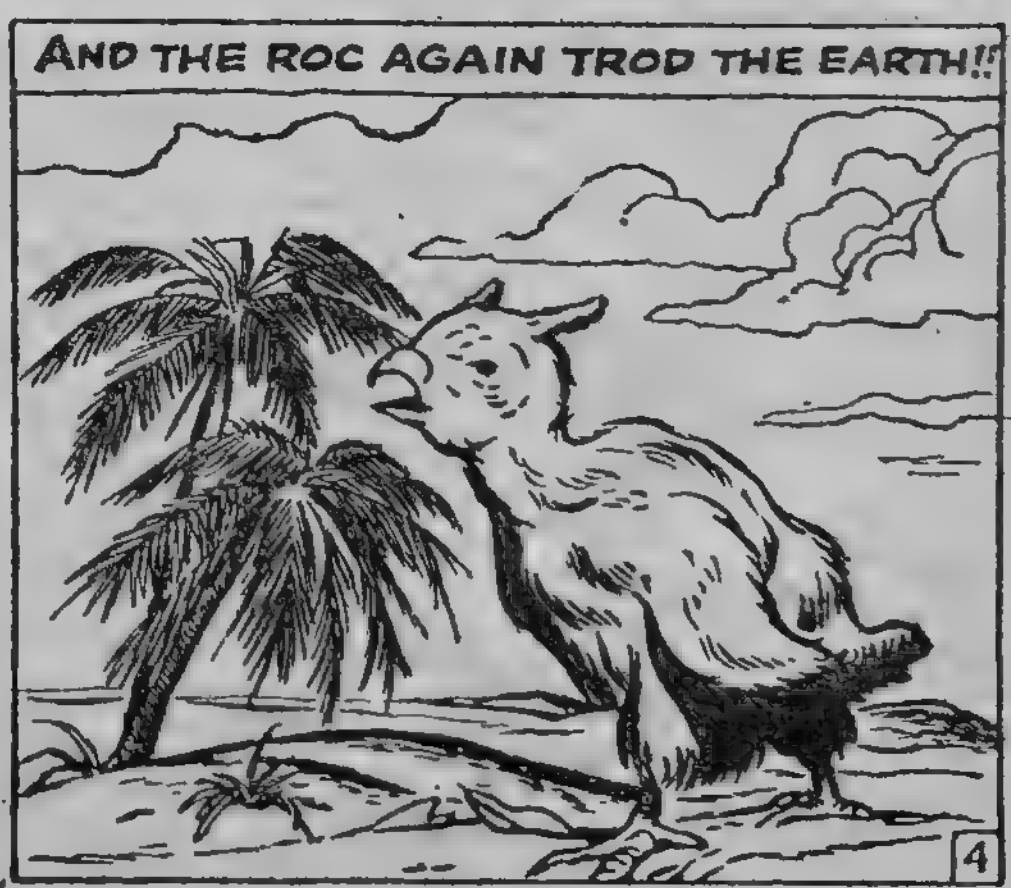
BUT IT'S A CINCH YOU AND I CAN'T MOVE THAT THING BY OURSELVES! WE'LL NEED PLENTY OF HELP! LET'S RUSH BACK TO CAIRO AND HIRE A CREW!
THIS IS THE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY OF THE AGE!!

SO ANNE AND I HOPPED IN THE JEEP AND HEADED FOR CAIRO, FOOLISHLY LEAVING THE CENTURIES-OLD EGG EXPOSED TO THE AIR AND SUNLIGHT...

WHILE THE LONG MINUTES BECAME HOURS, THE BURNING, BLAZING SUN BEAT DOWN UPON THE GIANT EGG...DRENCHING IT WITH WARMTH...

AND THEN, BENEATH THE LIFE-GIVING RAYS OF THE SUN, THERE STIRRED WITHIN THE ANCIENT SHELL, A MONSTROUS, TIME FORGOTTEN CREATURE...

THE STIRRING BECAME MORE PRONOUNCED-- MORE VIOLENT--UNTIL FINALLY THE FANTASTIC EGG BEGAN TO HATCH!


AND THE ROC AGAIN TROD THE EARTH!!

THE YOUNG BIRD BEGAN TO MATURE WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED! WITHIN MINUTES, HIS WINGS WERE MONSTROUS ENOUGH TO LIFT HIS GIANT BULK, AND THE BEHEMOTH WAS **AIRBORNE!**

WHOOSH

MEANWHILE, ANNE AND I WERE IN CAIRO, RECRUITING A CREW TO HELP US MOVE THE EGG! HOW COULD WE HAVE **DREAMT** THAT AFTER COUNTLESS CENTURIES, AN AGES-OLD EGG COULD ACTUALLY **HATCH!!??**

I'LL NEED ABOUT TWENTY MEN!

JOHN, WHAT'S THAT **COMMOTION** AT THE END OF THE SQUARE??

I TURNED! I SAW PEOPLE FEARFULLY POINTING IN THE DISTANCE! AND THEN, ALL AT ONCE, IT WAS ABOVE US-- THE **HUGE, INCREDIBLE LIVING ROC!!**

THE EGG... IT MUST HAVE **HATCHED!!**

OH, NO! **NO!**

SUDDENLY, SEEING A WAREHOUSE AND SENSING IT CONTAINED FOOD, THE TERRIFYING CREATURE PLUNGED TOWARD EARTH!

FLEE! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

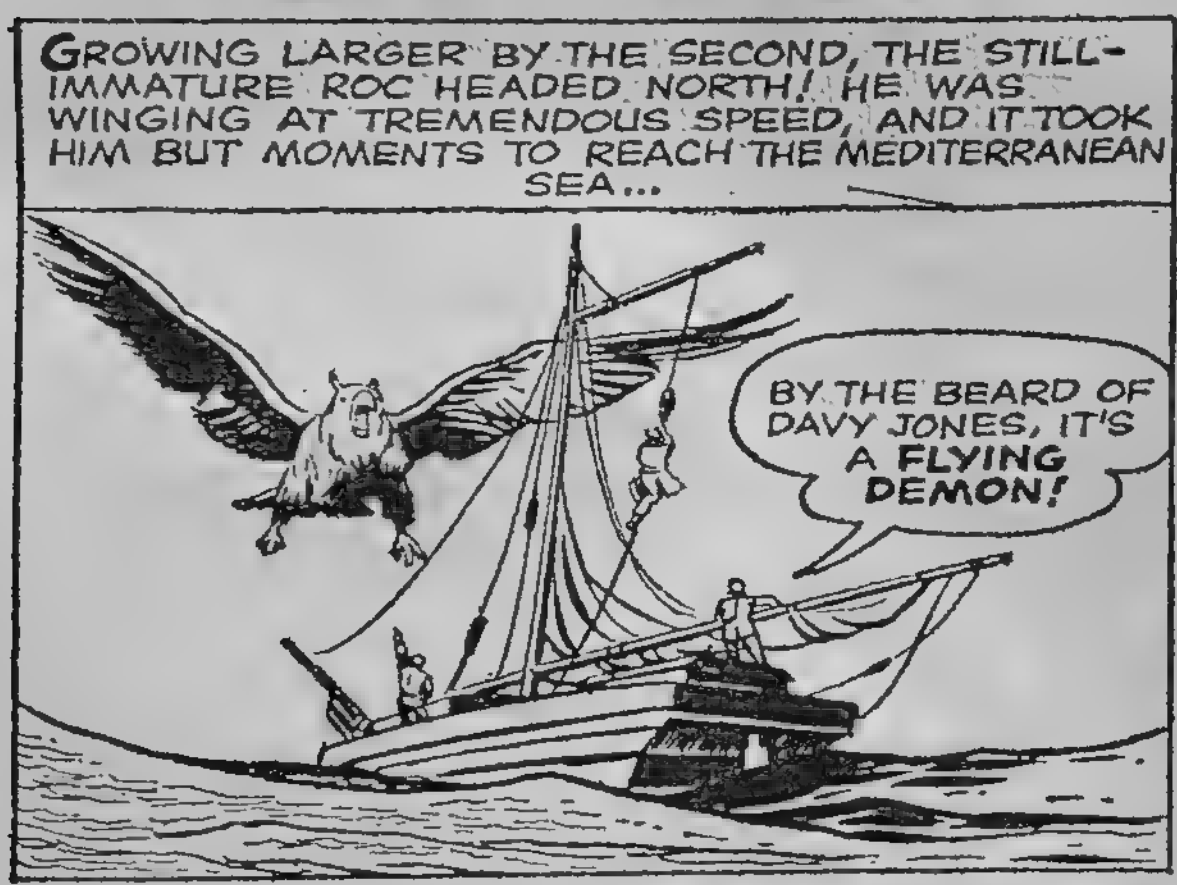
THE MONSTER BIRD IS DESTROYING THE WAREHOUSE!

HE SEEKS THE GRAIN STORED WITHIN!

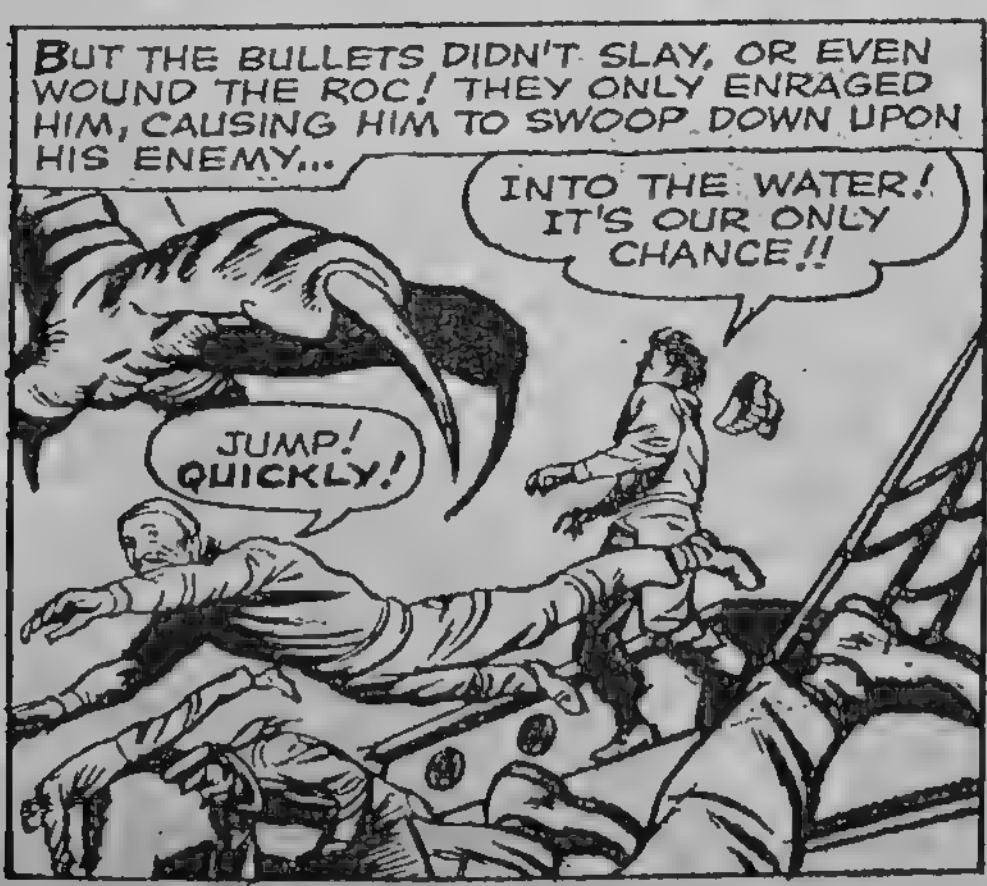
PRAISE TO ALLAH THAT WE ALL ESCAPED IN TIME!

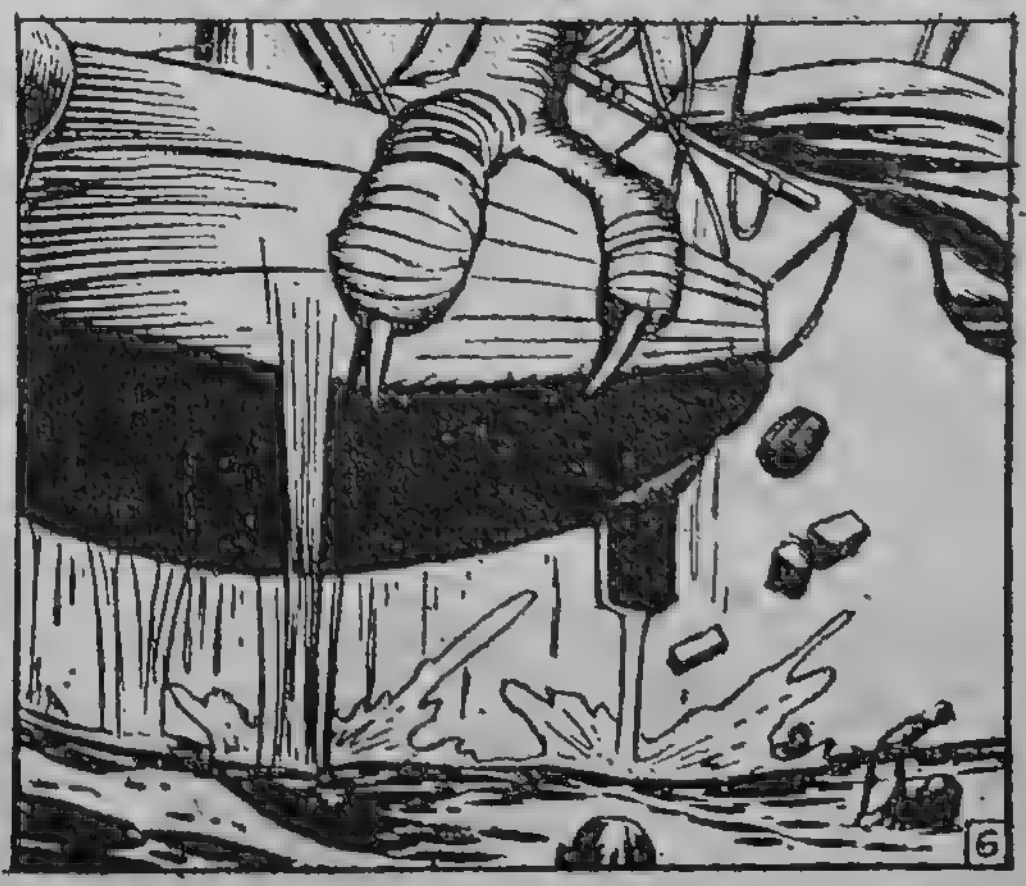
THE ROC HAS DEVOURED ALL THE GRAIN IN ONE GREEDY MOUTHFUL!
YES, HE'S STILL YOUNG-- STILL GROWING--HE'LL REQUIRE A STAGGERING AMOUNT OF FOOD! ANNE, ANNE, WHAT HAVE I DONE?? I'VE UNLEASHED A LIVING NIGHTMARE!!

HE LEAVES! PRAISE TO THE ALL-HIGHEST... THE FLYING MONSTER LEAVES!


GROWING LARGER BY THE SECOND, THE STILL-IMMATURE ROC HEADED NORTH! HE WAS WINGING AT TREMENDOUS SPEED, AND IT TOOK HIM BUT MOMENTS TO REACH THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA...
BY THE BEARD OF DAVY JONES, IT'S A FLYING DEMON!

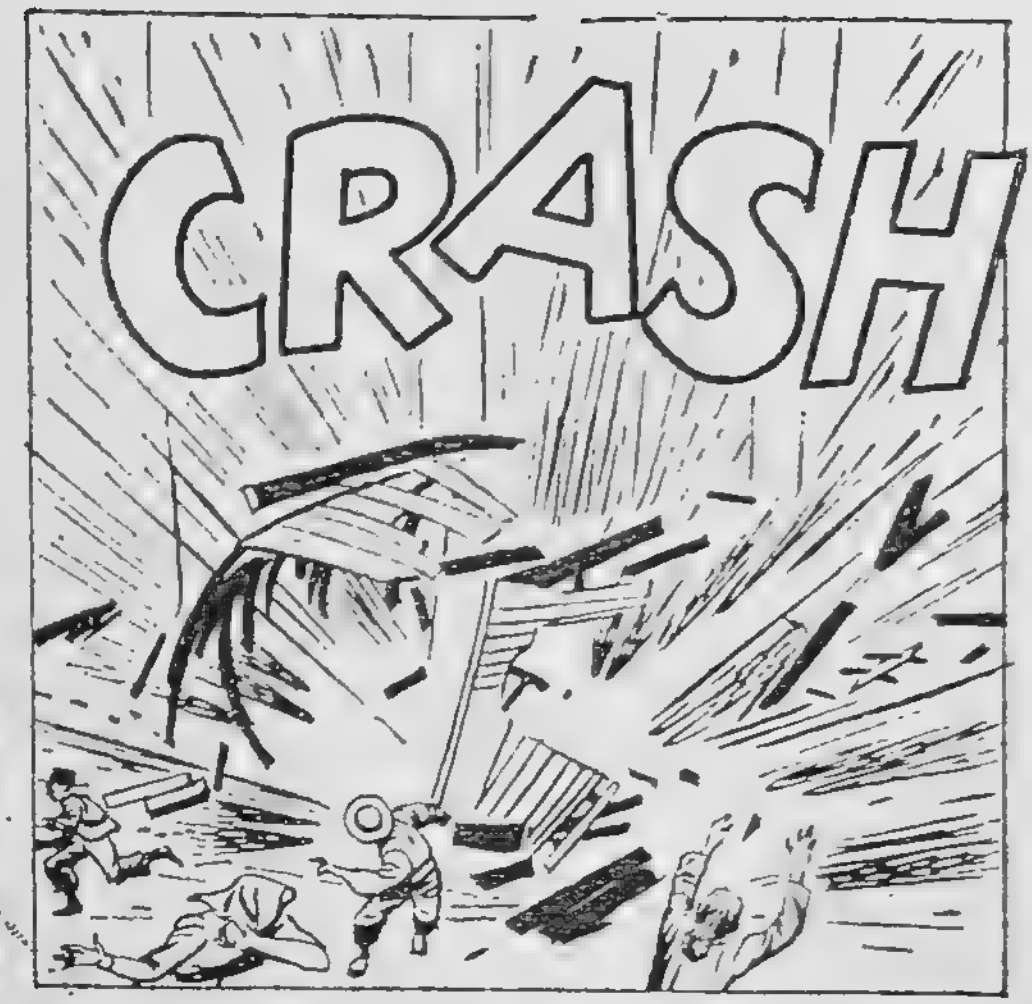
BANG! BANG! BANG!
MUST SLAY IT, BEFORE IT ATTACKS US!


BUT THE BULLETS DIDN'T SLAY, OR EVEN WOUND THE ROC! THEY ONLY ENRAGED HIM, CAUSING HIM TO SWOOP DOWN UPON HIS ENEMY...
INTO THE WATER! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!!
JUMP! QUICKLY!

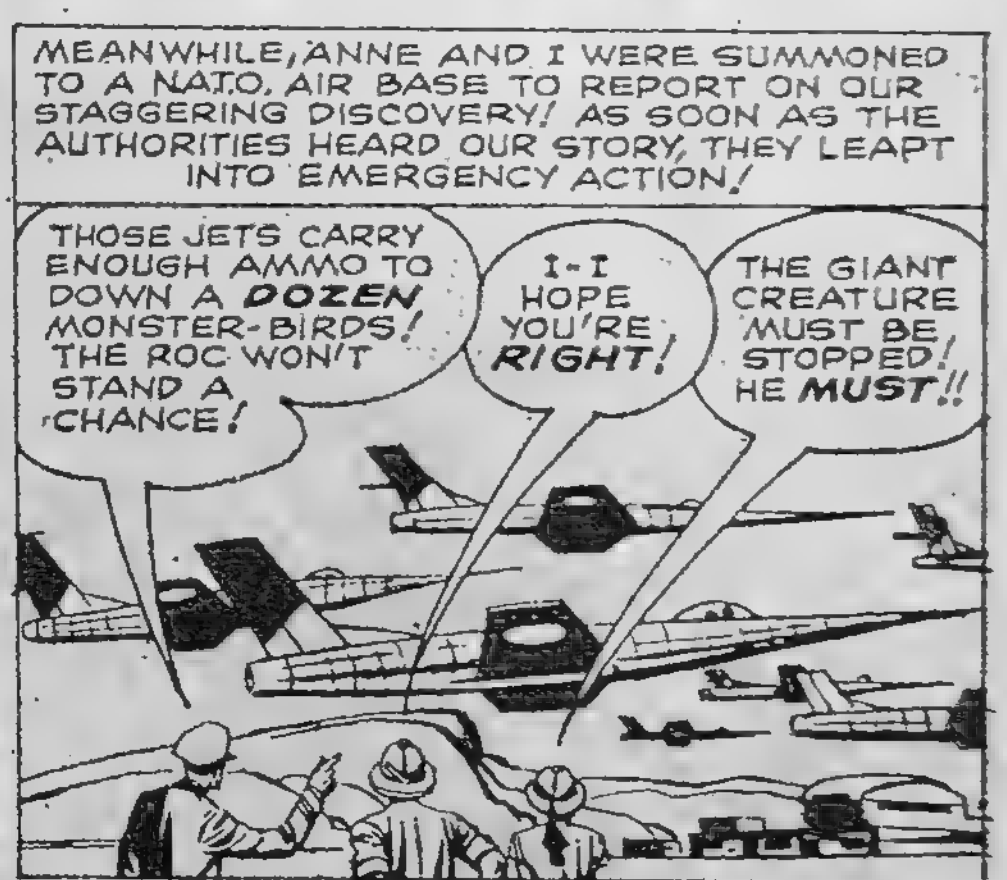


THE ROC LIVES AGAIN!
PART 2
WE MUST BE DREAMING! HE'S LIFTING THE SHIP AS THOUGH IT'S A TWIG!!
HE-HE'S FLYING AWAY WITH IT!!
K+A

GRIPPING THE VESSEL WITH HIS ENORMOUS TALONS, THE MIGHTY ROC CARRIED IT OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN UNTIL HE REACHED THE COAST OF SPAIN!
A DEMON! A GIANT FLYING DEMON!
IT IS INCREDIBLE! HE CARRIES A SHIP IN HIS TALONS!


CRASH

ANOTHER FEW FEET AND HE WOULD HAVE DESTROYED US ALL!
WHAT CAN HE BE?? WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
HE'S HEADING INLAND! NO ONE WILL BE SAFE!


MEANWHILE, ANNE AND I WERE SUMMONED TO A NATO. AIR BASE TO REPORT ON OUR STAGGERING DISCOVERY! AS SOON AS THE AUTHORITIES HEARD OUR STORY, THEY LEAPT INTO EMERGENCY ACTION!
THOSE JETS CARRY ENOUGH AMMO TO DOWN A DOZEN MONSTER-BIRDS! THE ROC WON'T STAND A CHANCE!
I-I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!
THE GIANT CREATURE MUST BE STOPPED! HE MUST!!

THE SCENE WAS A STADIUM IN SPAIN . . . IN THE BULL RING, A BRAVE TORERO WAS PITTING HIS SKILL AGAINST BESTIAL STRENGTH AND CUNNING!
OLE! OLE!
MAGNIFICO!
BRAVO, MANUEL!
NOW COMES THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

BUT AN INSTANT LATER, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH BECAME A MOMENT OF SHOCK AND PANIC!
WHAT--WHAT IS THAT??!
A LIVING GIANT OF A BIRD!
IT IS ABOUT TO ATTACK!

BY NOW THE FANTASTIC ROC HAD REACHED HIS FULL MATURE GROWTH! WITH A WINGSPREAD THE LENGTH OF A BATTLESHIP, THE DANGEROUS FLYING CREATURE DESCENDED UPON THE STADIUM!

BUT SUDDENLY, ABOVE THE CRIES OF THE CROWD WAS HEARD THE THUNDEROUS ROAR OF A SQUADRON OF JET FIGHTERS!

THERE HE *IS*... EVEN BIGGER THAN THEY SAID!

THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL! LET'S *GET* HIM!

THE FIGHTER PLANES ATTACKED! BUT THEY SOON LEARNED THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHTIEST CREATURE EARTH HAD EVER SPAWNED!

HOW CAN ANYTHING SO *BIG* MOVE SO *FAST*?

I CAN'T KEEP HIM IN MY GUN SIGHTS!

AND WHEN THE JETS FINALLY *DID* SCORE AGAINST THE TITANIC BIRD...

BULLETS AND ROCKETS DO NOT STOP HIM!

OUR WEAPONS ARE UTTERLY USELESS AGAINST HIM!

THE BATTLE SOON ENDED...THE ONLY WAY IT *COULD*!

WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE ESCAPED WITH OUR *LIVES*!

OUR BEST FIGHTER PLANES FAILED TO STOP HIM!

I COULD HAVE *TOLD* YOU! HE'S TOO HUGE, TOO POWERFUL TO BE DEFEATED BY CONVENTIONAL MILITARY WEAPONS! HE IS, IN TRUTH, THE MIGHTIEST THING ON EARTH TODAY!

WITH ALL EUROPE AS HIS HUNTING GROUND, THE TITANIC ROC CONTINUED TO OBEY HIS SAVAGE INSTINCTS!

THE WINGED MENACE IS COMING!

EVERYONE-- OFF THE BRIDGE *QUICKLY!*

WHY?? WHY DOES HE CARRY OFF SUCH THINGS?

H-HE'S LIFTING THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE!

THANK HEAVENS WE ABANDONED IT IN TIME!

HAD ANYONE BEEN ABLE TO *FOLLOW* THE NIGHTMARISH FLYING MONSTER TO A TOWERING MOUNTAIN, ABOVE THE CLOUDS, THEY'D HAVE SEEN *WHY* HE CARRIED AWAY DESERTED SHIPS, PLANES, AND SKYSCRAPERS! HE WAS BUILDING HIMSELF A GIGANTIC *NEST!*

MEANWHILE, I COULD THINK OF NOTHING SAVE THE MENACE I HAD UNWITTINGLY BROUGHT TO LIFE!

BECAUSE OF THAT HORRIBLE FLYING CREATURE OUR HONEYMOON'S BECOME A *NIGHTMARE!*

YES, OUR HONEYMOON... WAIT...*HONEYMOON!* THAT'S *IT! THAT'S THE ANSWER!*

THERE'S A CONFERENCE OF SCIENTISTS FROM EVERY NATION ON EARTH, MEETING IN SWITZERLAND! I MUST GO THERE AT *ONCE!*

B-BUT, JOHN, I--I DON'T *UNDERSTAND!*

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW! I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW, DARLING!

I RUSHED TO THE STATION AND BOARDED THE NEXT TRAIN TO SWITZERLAND!

THE SCIENTISTS MUST LISTEN TO ME! THEY MUST ACCEPT MY PLAN! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE OF DEFEATING THE ROC!

AND SO, WHILE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE WINGED BIRD CONTINUED TO PLUNDER AND PILLAGE...

...I RECEIVED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE OF WORLD SCIENTISTS...

GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A PLAN TO END THE MENACE OF THE ROC! PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY...

FOR LONG TENSE MOMENTS I SPOKE TO THE LEARNED BODY OF SCIENTISTS... AND, WHEN I HAD FINISHED...

MR. AVERY PROPOSES A BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE PROJECT! I AM IN FAVOR OF IT!

THE PROJECT WILL REQUIRE THE CLOSE COOPERATION OF ALL OUR NATIONS! BUT WE ***MUST*** MAKE THE EFFORT!

IT IS A FANTASTIC SCHEME!. SO DARING THAT IT MAY WELL ***SUCCEED!***

IMMEDIATELY, OLD INTERNATIONAL RIVALRIES WERE FORGOTTEN AS MY PLAN CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF ALL!

MY COUNTRY WILL PROVIDE ALL THE ENGINEERS THAT WILL BE NEEDED!

MINE WILL SUPPLY THE NECESSARY MATERIALS!

I SHALL OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM MY GOVERNMENT FOR US TO WORK ON THE PROJECT IN A NEARBY VALLEY!

IMBUED WITH A UNITED SENSE OF PURPOSE, SCIENTISTS, MECHANICS, BUILDERS SOON BEGAN THE HUGE TASK BEFORE THEM!

BUT WHILE ALL MANKIND TOILED TO RID THE WORLD OF THE ROC, THE MENACE FROM THE PAST CONTINUED HIS AWESOME ATTACKS!

MON DIEU! THE GIANT BIRD IS UPON US!

PAYING NO MORE ATTENTION TO THE PANICKY CROWDS THAN HE WOULD TO A SWARM OF INSECTS, THE WINGED BEHEMOTH LANDED IN THE HEART OF PARIS!

WITH HIS MIGHTY TALONS, HE RIPPED THRU CEMENT AND COBBLESTONE --- UNTIL ---

---HE REACHED INTO THE UNDERGROUND SUBWAY TO SEIZE A PASSING TRAIN!
EVERYBODY OUT OF THE TRAIN! HURRY!
THE MONSTER IS UPON US!!

WITHIN SECONDS THE ENTIRE TRAIN WAS EMPTY... AND THE ROC PULLED IT UP... UP... OUT OF THE SUBTERRANEAN TUNNEL...

SACRE BLEU! HE ACTUALLY - FLIES - AWAY WITH THE TRAIN!
TO THE MIGHTY ROC, IT MUST BE NO MORE THAN A WORM FOR DINNER!
IF I LIVE TO BE A THOUSAND, I SHALL NEVER FORGET THIS MOMENT!

FINALLY, AFTER DAYS OF CONSTANT TOIL, WE COMPLETED OUR CONSTRUCTION...NOW WE WERE READY TO PUT IT INTO ACTION!

ATTENTION! START THE COUNT-DOWN!

NINE...EIGHT... SEVEN...SIX...FIVE... FOUR...THREE...

...TWO... ONE... ZERO!

BAROOM!

FLYING AS SWIFTLY AS THE BIRD IT RESEMBLED, THE HUGE, ROCKET-PROPELLED SPACE SHIP WE HAD CREATED, LEVELLED OFF AT 5,000 FEET...

IT'S ANOTHER ***ROC!*** ALL THIS TIME THEY WERE BUILDING ***ANOTHER ROC!***

IF ***ONE*** ROC IS SO DEADLY, ***TWO*** WILL COMPLETELY FINISH US OFF! THE SCIENTISTS MUST HAVE BEEN MAD!

BUT SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

IT'S THE ***REAL*** ROC! HE'S SEEN ***OUR*** BIRD! HE'S GOING ***AFTER*** IT!

NOW--***NOW*** HEAD THE DECOY CRAFT FOR ***OUTER SPACE!***

BY REMOTE CONTROL WE FIRED THE FLYING MACHINE'S BOOSTER ROCKETS, SENDING THE ARTIFICIAL BIRD INTO THE VAST EMPTINESS OF SPACE AND TIME!

THE ROC'S STILL FOLLOWING! HE'S LEAVING EARTH! WE'VE ***DONE*** IT! WE'VE ***SUCCEEDED!***

OUR DECOY MACHINE WILL FLY FOR AGES! ROC WILL SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS IN OUTER SPACE FOLLOWING THE MACHINE!

THE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S PLAN HAS RID US OF THE ROC FOR ALL TIME!

HOW DID YOU KNOW THE ROC WOULD PURSUE A SIMILAR-LOOKING BIRD?

YOU GAVE ME THE IDEA WHEN YOU MENTIONED OUR HONEYMOON! I REMEMBERED THEN THAT ***ANY*** CREATURE--NO MATTER HOW DANGEROUS OR POWERFUL HE MAY BE--HAS THE URGE TO FIND A MATE! AND SO I THOUGHT OF CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL ROC TO LURE THE REAL ONE AWAY FROM EARTH!

AND NOW IT'S TIME YOU CONCENTRATED ON YOUR ***OWN*** MATE! REMEMBER, THIS ***IS*** OUR HONEYMOON!

AND THE REST OF OUR STORY WILL NOT INTEREST ***YOU,*** DEAR READER!

The End

IN THE NUCLEAR AGE OF *2145*, WAR WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT DESTROYING THE ENTIRE WORLD! ANOTHER KIND OF WAR WAS SUBSTITUTED, WAR ON THE *ATHLETIC FIELD*...AND TO THE VICTOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL GAMES WOULD GO THE SPOILS...THE MONOPOLIES, STRATEGIC MATERIALS AND ECONOMIC SUPREMACY! EAST AND WEST CLASHED IN A CONTEST NEITHER COULD AFFORD TO LOSE!

HE CAN'T LOSE!

BACK AND FORTH, THE TUG OF WAR CONTINUED BETWEEN THE EASTERN BLOC AND THE FREE WESTERN POWERS...

CANDIDATE SASLOV, NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN OF THE EASTERN BLOC, WINS THE POLE VAULT EVENT WITH A *NEW RECORD* OF SIXTEEN FEET, ONE INCH!

2145 WORLD OLYMPICS

VIC CARAVATTA

K921

THE TRACK EVENTS BEGAN AUSPICIOUSLY WITH THE MILE CLASSIC...

TWENTY MINUTES LATER, THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED METER CONTEST WENT OFF...

CAPTAIN HANLEY RAN HIS HEART OUT, BUT...

A SECOND GOLD MEDAL FOR KOSSOV...

BUT WHEN KOSSOV'S ENTRY IN THE FINAL EVENT, THE HUNDRED YARD SPRINT WAS ANNOUNCED...

THE VICTORY OF THE EASTERN BLOC WAS A ROUT...

WHEN KOSSOV WAS SUMMONED TO THE JUDGE'S BOX TO ACCEPT THE GOLDEN WREATH...

WHIRLING SUDDENLY, CAPTAIN HANLEY SNATCHED THE STARTER'S PISTOL, AND...

WHEN KOSSOV RETURNED TO THE JUDGES' STAND, AFTER CIRCLING THE TRACK AT BLINDING SPEED...

AS THE PISTOL BLAST TORE THROUGH THE SILENT ARENA...

MOMENTS LATER...

THE BOY WHO VANISHED!

V-268

PAUL GRIMAN

BUT, A PAGE LATER...

THE SATURNIANS ARE MAKING THEIR ESCAPE BY DISINTEGRATING THEMSELVES! THEY'RE VANISHING... THEY'LL REAPPEAR AT **ANOTHER TIME IN ANOTHER PLACE!**

GOLLY, IF ONLY **I** COULD DO THAT! IF I COULD SEND MYSELF FROM HERE INTO THE FUTURE! WHAT A TERRIFIC EXPERIENCE IT WOULD BE!

IT IS ONLY A BOY'S YOUTHFUL WISH! BUT ONCE IT TAKES HOLD OF BILLY, IT DOESN'T LET HIM GO!

MAYBE--MAYBE I COULD TRAVEL INTO THE FUTURE BY **THINKING** MYSELF THERE! SOME SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES SAY PEOPLE'S MINDS HAVE **ENORMOUS ENERGY!** AND IF PEOPLE **USED** THAT ENERGY, THEY COULD ACCOMPLISH **ANYTHING!**

I'M GONNA **TRY** IT! I'M GONNA CONCENTRATE JUST AS **HARD** AS I CAN! I'LL THINK MYSELF OUT OF THIS ROOM... AND INTO THE FUTURE!

AND, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, FROM A CELESTIAL BODY A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY, A BEAM OF ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION PASSES THRU EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE TO BATHE ONE MORTAL BEING IN ITS STRANGE, UNEARTHLY LIGHT...

I CAN LEAVE THIS TIME AND PLACE... I CAN TRAVEL INTO THE FUTURE... I CAN FORCE MYSELF THERE BY THE POWER OF MY MIND... **I CAN DO IT!... I CAN!**

I AM... I CAN GO BEYON TOMORRO

BEYOND

I AM GOING BEYOND TOMORROW

NEXT W

AND THE NEXT FIVE HUNDRED YEAR

SLOWLY, THE AMORPHOUS WHIRLING MISTS STOP, AND ONCE AGAIN SHAPES, AND FORMS, AND COLORS COME INTO BEING!
AM--AM I DREAMING, OR DID I REALLY TRAVEL THROUGH TIME??! I CAN'T TELL...ALL THIS LOOKS SO REAL! BUT IF IT IS REAL, WHAT YEAR IS THIS?
IT IS THE YEAR 2501, A.D....

WHA-? WHO-- WHO ARE YOU??
MY NAME IS ALANA! WHAT IS YOURS?

I'M BILLY... BILLY CARTER!
WELL, BILLY CARTER, WHY DO YOU SIT THERE LIKE THAT? HAVE YOU NO MANNERS? WHY DO YOU NOT STAND UP?
I CAN'T STAND! I'M LAME! ONE OF MY LEGS WAS INJURED A YEAR AGO!

IN THAT CASE, YOU MUST LET ME TAKE YOU TO MY FATHER! HE IS A DOCTOR! HE WILL CURE YOU!
B-BUT MY LEG CAN'T BE CURED!
DON'T BE SILLY! WE CAN CURE ANYTHING NOWADAYS!

NOW, YOU JUST LEAN ON ME! WE SHALL GO STRAIGHT TO MY FATHER!
I--I STILL DON'T KNOW IF I'M DREAMING OR WHAT...??
DREAMING?? WHAT A SILLY IDEA! AS THOUGH ANYBODY COULD DREAM WITH HIS EYES OPEN!

CONFUSED, BEWILDERED, YOUNG BILLY IS BROUGHT TO ALANA'S ELDERLY FATHER!
OF COURSE I CAN CURE YOU, YOUNG MAN!
YOU--YOU CAN HELP ME?!
SEE, BILLY... I TOLD YOU SO!

JUST SWALLOW THESE FIVE TABLETS, AND YOUR LEG WILL HEAL!

I MUST BE DREAMING! I MUST!

A MOMENT LATER, THE STRANGE CHEMICAL INGREDIENTS TAKE EFFECT!
MY LEG--IT FEELS ALIVE AGAIN!!

I-- I CAN STAND ON IT! I CAN STAND UP!!

LOOK! I'M MOVING!! WALKING!!

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! I'M REALLY WALKING!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF BILLY, ALANA?
HE SEEMS TO BE VERY NICE... EVEN THOUGH HE IS FROM ANOTHER AGE!

FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, BILLY IS ABSORBED IN NOTHING BUT THE WONDROUS AND EXCITING ACT OF WALKING! THEN, ALANA'S FATHER SAYS TO HIM...
WE'VE ENJOYED MEETING YOU, BILLY! BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR OWN PARENTS WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU IF YOU DON'T RETURN HOME SOON!

BUT--BUT HOW CAN I GO HOME-- BACK TO 1961??
WHY, YOU CAN TRAVEL INTO THE PAST THE SAME WAY YOU TRAVELED INTO THE FUTURE... BY THE POWER OF YOUR MIND!

AND SO, AFTER A FEW GOODBYES AND A TEARFUL GLANCE FROM ALANA, BILLY SHUTS HIS EYES AND AGAIN CONCENTRATES AS INTENSELY AS POSSIBLE...
I'M GOING TO GUIDE MYSELF BACK INTO THE PAST BY MY THOUGHTS! MY THOUGHTS WILL TAKE ME BACK... BACK...BACK!...

BACK PAST YESTERDAY...
LAST MON
BACK
BEYON
LAST YEAR
BACK, BACK THROUGH FIVE HUNDRED YEARS

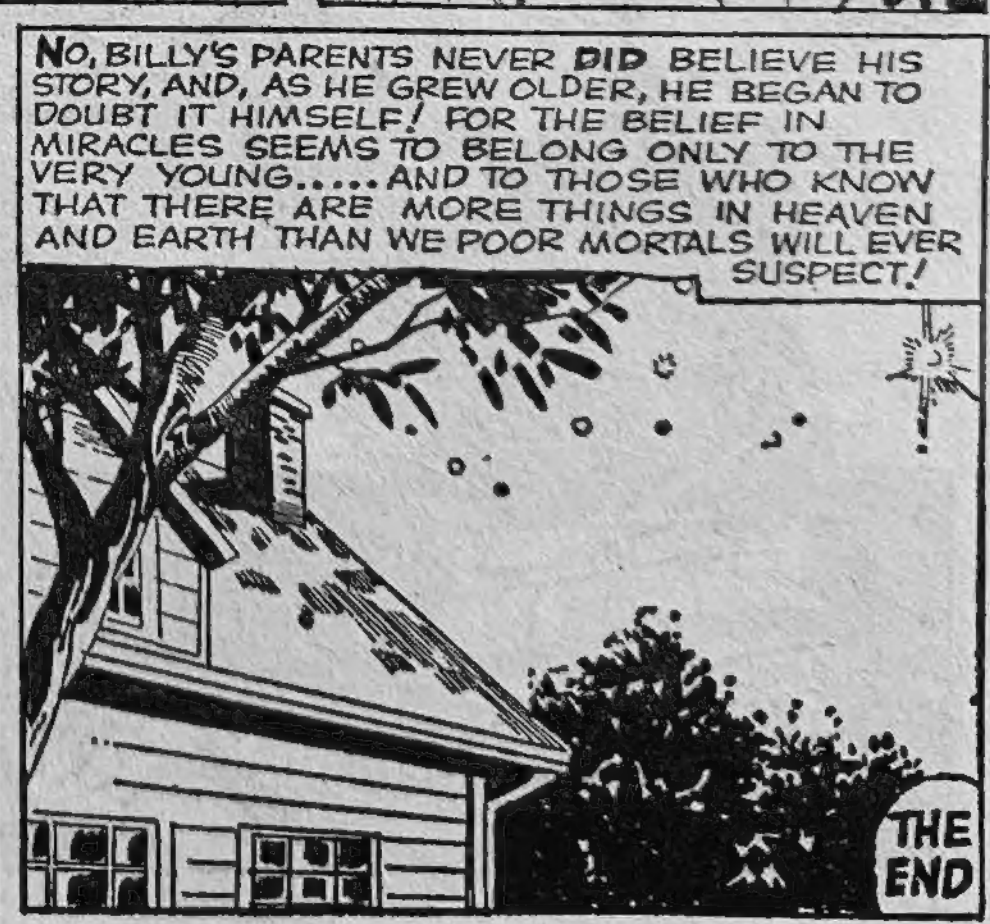
ONCE AGAIN BILLY EMERGES FROM NOTHINGNESS INTO ANOTHER SEGMENT OF REALITY!
I--I'M HERE, BACK IN MY OWN ROOM AGAIN! I DID IT! I WENT INTO THE FUTURE, AND NOW I'M BACK AGAIN! IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL THING THAT EVER HAPPENED!

SUDDENLY, THE DOOR TO BILLY'S ROOM OPENS...
COME ON, SON... IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!
MOM! DAD! I WENT INTO THE FUTURE... I JUST RETURNED FROM THE YEAR 2501!
NONSENSE! YOU JUST HAD A DREAM, DEAR!

NO, NO!! IT WASN'T A DREAM! IT WAS REAL! IT HAD TO BE REAL--IT HAD TO!
CAREFUL, SON! DON'T TRY TO STAND--YOU'LL FALL!
LOOK OUT, BILLY!

BUT BILLY DIDN'T FALL!! INSTEAD...
LOOK!! HE'S STANDING--WALKING--
HIS LEG IS HEALED!! SOB!

I TOLD YOU I HAD BEEN TO THE FUTURE!
THEY CURED ME THERE! I TOLD YOU!
OH, BILLY, DARLING! NO MATTER HOW IT HAPPENED--IT'S SO WONDERFUL!


NO, BILLY'S PARENTS NEVER DID BELIEVE HIS STORY, AND, AS HE GREW OLDER, HE BEGAN TO DOUBT IT HIMSELF! FOR THE BELIEF IN MIRACLES SEEMS TO BELONG ONLY TO THE VERY YOUNG.....AND TO THOSE WHO KNOW THAT THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH THAN WE POOR MORTALS WILL EVER SUSPECT!
THE END

Uncanny Mysteries

"The ROYAL WRAITH"

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OUT OF THIS WORLD

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WEIRD PLANETS

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW